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MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS IN AMERICA.

A MONOGRAPH.

BY

CLAUDIUS BUCHANAN FARNSWORTH.

PAWTUCKET, R. I.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

1891.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
ORIGIN OF THE NAME.....	II
EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY :	
I. JOSEPH FARNSWORTH.....	13
II. THOMAS FARNSWORTH.....	16
III. MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH.....	19
CHILDREN OF MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH :	
I. MRS. ROBINSON.....	33
II. MATTHIAS, JR.....	34
III. JOHN.....	44
IV. BENJAMIN.....	46
V. JOSEPH.....	81
VI. MRS. THATCHER.....	82
VII. MRS. STONE.....	84
VIII. SAMUEL.....	86
IX. ABIGAIL.....	104
X. JONATHAN.....	105
XI. JOSEPH, 2D ...	114

ERRATUM.

Page 45.—The wife of Job Shattuck was daughter of Samuel Hartwell and Sarah Holden, and not of Samuel Hartwell and Sarah Farnsworth.

INTRODUCTION.

The descendants of Matthias Farnsworth may well rejoice that the annals of the family have at length been preserved in this little book ; their debt of gratitude to the faithful compiler, whose long and patient labors have borne this first fruit, can never be repaid. Only one who has essayed to piece together the fragments of obscure family history ; to extract the kernel of truth from the chaff of family tradition ; to reconcile the innumerable doubts raised by faulty records with ascertained facts ; to unravel the tangled skein of departed generations with its broken and missing threads—only one who has attempted any of these things can fully appreciate the labor involved in or the value of a work of this character. For it must be remembered that this monograph is but the reflex of a work of far greater magnitude and importance, the Genealogy of the family. Without the untiring investigations that have been continued through two generations, without the collection and arrangement of the slowly accumulated material for that work, this book never could have been written. In these pages the author has endeavored to present to those bearing the name what has been learned of their family history in the progress of those investigations, free from the statistics that necessarily encumber the pages of the Genealogy, and to give them such information concerning those who have borne or who now bear the name as seemed most worthy of preservation. Beyond this, it is an effort by one who has devoted a large portion of a long life to this work to arouse a more general interest among the members of the family now living in the completion of the records of the family, past and present, and to hasten the publication of a Genealogy that, always of inestimable value, must be of still greater value and importance as time rolls on and the inevitable changes in social condition lead to an enhanced social estimate of name and descent. If this book succeeds in awakening that interest, and in eliciting from members

of the family such scraps of information as they may possess, the author will feel that his labors have not been in vain.

How long a time has elapsed since the Rev. James Delap Farnsworth began the compilation of family records to which we now gain the first insight in the following pages. Most of us were then unborn, and volumes of family history have been enacted in the many intervening years. He died in 1854, nearly forty years ago, and the incomplete material he had gathered passed into the hands of a worthy successor, then in the prime of life. In his hands the framework erected by his predecessor has, by unremitting attention, grown to large proportions. Now he, in turn, long past the age of three score and ten, finds his work still far from complete, or from even a degree of perfection that will warrant its publication for some time to come. This should not be, and the Genealogy need not be long delayed if the Farnsworths in America who read these pages will send to the author the names and dates of births, marriages and deaths in their families, and urge others of the name to do the same.

And what a creditable little chronicle it is—this of the Farnsworth family and its ancestors. Matthias Farnsworth brought with him from England none of the titles or insignia of rank that are so attractive to vanity even in the bosom of a Republic. Those who value such baubles will not find gratification in these pages. But he came to America endowed with a sturdy independence, a rugged integrity, a due regard for morality and a simple religious faith that were worth far more in subduing the unbroken forests and ungenial soil of New England than aristocratic descent or heraldic device. He was respected and honored by those with whom he cast his lot for the brave, true and manly qualities he possessed, and what can his descendants desire more than this? It was such as he that made the Puritan stock the peer—if not the superior—of any outgrowth of the divergent social and religious elements that planted the seed of a great nation along the Atlantic coast in the seventeenth century.

“ Give praise to others, early come or late,
For love and labor on our ship of State ;
But this must stand above all fame and zeal :
The Pilgrim Fathers laid the ribs and keel ;
On their strong lines we base our social health—
The man—the home—the town—the Commonwealth ! ”

Matthias Farnsworth was one of the early settlers who followed the Pilgrim Fathers, founded communities upon the lines marked out by them, and completed their work by transmitting some of their qualities to their descendants. If we of the nineteenth century have inherited some small portion—and let us hope that such is the case—we have ample cause for gratulation. The following pages will show that the descendants of Matthias Farnsworth have enjoyed in a marked degree the respect of their fellow-men; that they have ever been earnest workers; that such worldly honors as have come to individuals of the name, such positions as have been attained in the various pathways of life, have been the reward of merit rather than the result of self-seeking or favoritism; that they have been self-made in the truest sense, and it is the proud boast of the author of this book that, in a search for genealogical material extending over more than half a century, the prison and the almshouse have contributed no names to the record. May future generations do as well.

EDWARD H. FARNSWORTH.

December, 1890.

P R E F A C E .

In the year 1848 Caleb Butler printed in his History of Groton, Mass., genealogical tables of some Groton families, and he included among them some of the family of Matthias Farnsworth down to about the middle of the last century so far as they were residents of old Groton. In their preparation Mr. Butler was assisted by the late Rev. James Delap Farnsworth, who for several years before had interested himself in collecting from old records and the memories of aged people such facts as were then accessible, for the purpose eventually of making a genealogy of the Farnsworths in America. The tables thus formed by Mr. Butler were quite imperfect, and not very extensive. Rev. James D. Farnsworth died in 1854, leaving his collections entirely unmethodized. After a while his papers were placed in my hands. I had known him from my childhood. I had heard him talk the subject over with the old people. I therefore took it as an inheritance, and made it the recreation of what leisure hours I had in a life devoted to business. I have accumulated a large mass of material for a genealogy of the family; but I am unable to complete it. My health will not permit it. But my collections are at the service of the family, and, in my judgment, ought not to be lost.

As a preliminary to the genealogy I have prepared this book, in order to show the origin of the family in America, its dispersion through the country and its history. I hope it will tend to unify the members of the family, and lead them to take a greater interest in their common history, and in their common possessions. For it has treasures worthy of history.

I here acknowledge my very great obligations to Edward H. Farnsworth who has rendered me invaluable assistance in preparing this book for, and in passing it through the press.

CLAUDIUS B. FARNSWORTH.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., April, 1891.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

The families of Farnsworth in the United States are all of English origin, and undoubtedly derive their name from one of two places in Lancashire, England, bearing the name of Farnworth. One of them is in the parish of Prescott, not far from Liverpool, on the way to Manchester. It is believed, however, that the family derived its name from Farnworth, in the parish of Dean, a few miles north-west from Manchester, in the Hundred of Salford. The name of those places has always been spelled without an *s*, and the families bearing the name in England almost uniformly write it Farnworth. All the immigrants of that name to this country in the seventeenth century wrote it in the same, or substantially the same, way. But as the writers and recorders of those early times were not well instructed in orthography, they were not at all uniform in their spelling of this name. Thus we find *ffarneworth*, *fferneworth*, *ffearneworth*, *ffarnot*, *ffarnom*, *ffearnoth*, and many other forms. The Farnworths themselves were generally very little more uniform in their spelling than others were, until in the early part of the eighteenth century it was gradually changed to Farnsworth. The Groton records almost uniformly spell the name without an *s* until about 1750; but the usage of the family had changed somewhat earlier. The pronunciation in early times in this country was probably as if spelled Farnoth, as it is spelled in some of the records.

The introduction of the *s* into the name is no doubt a corruption, and probably arose from some notion of euphony. The same change has been made to some extent in England; and persons spelling their names in the American fashion are to be found in the directories of Manchester, Liverpool and London; and in Manchester is a street named Farnsworth, spelled in the

Manchester Directory as we spell it. At the same time it must be noticed that the principal old families of the name, located mainly in Lancashire, but to some extent elsewhere, scrupulously adhere to the ancient spelling.

The word is undoubtedly a Saxon descriptive compound, from *fern* (Anglo Saxon, *fearn*), the fern plant, and *worth*, in Saxon English a valuable farm, or estate, the whole signifying a ferny land, farm, or estate, the places to which the name was applied having been very productive of ferns. The word "worth," as used in the west of England, and to some extent elsewhere in early times, signified property by means of which a man was "worth it," or a "worthy," and as the principal property of those days was land, it came generally to mean what we should call "landed property"; so a "landed estate" was spoken of as a "worth." This usage was probably much more common in Lancashire than in any other part of England. And in the immediate neighborhood of Farnworth, within twenty miles of it, the traveller will find numerous places compounded with this word, such as Ainsworth, Rumworth, Cleworth, Unsworth, Pilsworth, Edgworth, Longworth, Southworth, Failsworth, Breworth, Butterworth, Budworth, Wardleworth, Ashworth, Shuttleworth, and Whitworth. These are not all; and there are some names of the same origin, but of slightly different form.

Farnworth lies on the westerly side of the west branch of the Irwell, and on the other side of the river to the east lies a place called Fearney. It is not unlikely that as the name was frequently, perhaps commonly, in early times written Fearneworth, it was pronounced in three syllables, as if written *Fearneyworth*. Thus one signs as witness to a will, in 21 Ed. I., "Roger de Farneworth," and in the 4th Ed. II., Elias de Smeth-ton, prior of the Knights Hospitalers of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, conveys certain lands in Platt, a place near by Farnworth, by deed to Adam de farneworth, and his son Robert was seized of them by the same name in the 8th Ed. II.*

Farnworth, in the parish of Dean, was an ancient manor, of about 1400 acres, with a manor court, and had upon it, as early as can be identified, a stone residence that bore the name of Farnworth Hall. It was standing and occupied as the manor

* See Baine's History of Lancashire.

house as late as Queen Elizabeth's time, and perhaps a little later, but it was afterwards suffered to go to decay. It was probably occupied as a residence in the days of Joseph and Matthias Farnsworth, the early emigrants to this country. The place where it stood is now occupied by laborers' cottages, but is still called, and is so designated on the local maps, "Farnworth Hall." It is about two miles south-easterly from the railway station at Bolton le Moors. After the old hall went to decay a mansion house was built upon the manor, about two miles southerly, called Birch House, which is said to be a fine residence. The old manor is now a town, and has become noted as a place for the manufacture of paper. The largest mills in that trade in England are there. It had a population in 1881 of 19,380.

The "manor," or "honor," of Farnworth in Dean was held for a long time by the same persons that held the adjoining estates of Hulton, Little-Hulton, Middle-Hulton and Over-Hulton, that lay directly south and south-west of it; and their arms are entered in the returns of the herald's visitations as of Hulton, or of Hulton de farnworth, according as they were connected with one or the other of the estates. This was a powerful family as early as the reign of Edward I. As this place was probably included by the Domesday report in the time of William the Conqueror in the territory of Manchester, and as the region is known to have been hardly used by him, perhaps he may have disposed of all of it to his followers. For all of Salford Hundred is said to have belonged to King Edward, wherein were twenty-one berewicks and as many thanes, none of whose names are given, but all of whom, very likely, were dispossessed. At any rate they did not appear to have any title to the land worth mentioning by the Conqueror. Richard Bancroft, D. D., Archbishop of Canterbury, son of John Bancroft, was born at Farnworth in 1554.

Farnworth and Kearsly are organized together ecclesiastically. Kearsly is a small adjoining place to the east, and Farnworth church is near the line between them, and called the "Church of St. John." It is a handsome church, built of light colored stone in 1825, and opened for use in 1827. Farnworth was for some time in dispute as to its ownership; for the Hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem claimed it in the twentieth year of Edward I., and the Abbey of Cockersand did so in the seventh and eighth

Richard II.; and it appears eventually to have fallen to the same family that held the neighboring and larger estates of Hulton.

At that time surnames had not come much into use in England; but at a later time they were adopted, and gradually became universal. Some persons were named hereditarily for personal peculiarities, some took the names of their trades, and those who had landed estates took the names of their estates; for estates bore well known names earlier than families. If they had more than one estate, the owner made his choice among them, or used as many of them as he pleased; and if the estates passed to two or more sons, each took the name of the estate assigned to him. At first those named from their estates among the landed class of English either were, or affected to be, of Norman descent, and in naming themselves used the French preposition *de*, and so the owners and residents on the *fearnly worth* called themselves "de Farnworth."

Farnworth in Prescott was less prominent than the one in Dean; but there is a chapel there wherein are many interesting monuments of the family of Bold; and it is said that King James I., when visiting the Earl of Derby who lived near by, while riding on horseback found a silver horseshoe in the road which was claimed by the rector of Prescott, which included Farnworth. On account of his extravagance the tradition runs that the King compelled him to transfer the great tithes of the rectory to King's College, Cambridge.

There are several places in England whose names are compounded with *Farn*, and having a signification similar to Farnworth. For instance, there are three Farnboroughs—that is, a ferny town; a Farndale—that is, a ferny valley; a Farndish, three Farnduns, six Farnhams, a Farningham, said to have been corrupted to Framingham, Farnly, and Farnsfield. The family name is not very common in England, although there are several very respectable families bearing it, apparently all springing from the source named; and in the churchyard of St. John, at Farnworth, the traveller can see the gravestones of many of the name.

EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

JOSEPH FARNSWORTH AND HIS FAMILY.

Joseph Farnsworth of Dorchester, Mass., is the first person bearing the name of Farnsworth that we know of in this country. He is first heard of there about 1632, but he probably came over with the Dorchester Company, though perhaps not in the first vessel. He was admitted freeman March 14, 1638-9. Another Joseph Farnsworth, probably his son, was admitted freeman May 2, 1649. The name is spelled in the record in both cases "ffarnworth." He died Jan. 12, 1660, and his will was proved and is recorded in Suffolk Registry of Wills, vol. 1., fol. 327, and has been printed in the Historic-Genealogical Register, vol. IX., p. 140. He provides in it for his wife, whom he calls "Mary, formerly wife of John Long and Thomas Long." He also gives legacies to his daughters, Elizabeth, wife of John Mansfield; Esther, Mary, wife of Abraham Ripley; his grandson, "Joseph Peck, son of Simon Peck, who married with Hannah, my daughter, now deceased," and Rebecca, and also to his eldest son Joseph, although he had, as he says, "already assisted him greatly," and the rest to his son Samuel, who appears to have been a minor. The inventory returned amounted to £206 18s. 2d. Joseph's first wife's name was Elizabeth, surname unknown. After Joseph's death his widow very soon married John Wilcock, then resident at Dorchester. She was executor of her husband "ffarnworth's" will, and joining her husband Wilcock she made a deed of part of his land, April 20, 1660, to William Pond: Suffolk Deeds, B. VII., fol. 296.

By an old record in the City Register's office, Boston, entitled "Marriages, Births, Deaths," on page 39, under the head of "Dorchester," together with other sources of information, we learn that Joseph had the following children:

1. JOSEPH.
2. ELIZABETH.
3. ESTHER.
4. MARY, born March 30, 1637 ; married Abraham Ripley.
5. HANNAH, born Dec. 14, 1638 ; married Simon Peck. She died before her father, as appears by the will.
6. REBECCA, born Jan. 2, 1639-40 ; married, March 18, 1662, John Ruggles.
7. RUTH, born June 3, 1642 ; married William Puffer, who probably lived at Wrentham, and had a son born there named William, July 17, 1686.
8. SAMUEL, born — ; moved to Windsor, Connecticut, where he married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Stoughton, Jr., in 1667.

There was also apparently another daughter, Leonora, baptized at Dorchester, Nov. 14, 1639, of whom nothing else is known. There appears also to have been a Rachel Farnworth, who married Matthias Puffer at Braintree, March 18, 1662. As she must have been living when Joseph made his will, Jan. 2, 1659-60, and is not named in it, it is asked whether she was Joseph's daughter. Possibly she may have been, and was omitted accidentally. And again it is possible that she is one of those called by another name in the will.

Samuel, the youngest son, took the largest part of the estate under the will. He sold part of that estate April 26, 1678, to Thomas Platts. In that deed he describes himself as "Samuel ffarnworth, of Winsor, in the Colony of Connetticot, housewright (son of Joseph ffarnworth sometime of Dorchester in the Mattachusetts Colony of New England, cooper, deceased)." Apparently by the will Joseph has named, or intended to name, all his children in New England, that were living when he made it. It has been supposed by some that Joseph was father of Matthias, the ancestor of the Groton Farnsworths, who was at the date of the will probably living at Lynn, and is not mentioned in it. But as he calls Joseph, Jr., his eldest son, and he was admitted freeman May 2, 1649, by which it appears possible that he may have been born as late as 1627, while Matthias was born about 1611 or '12, I think there is no probability that Joseph was father to Matthias. He was more likely to be brother, a supposition which is not improbable, though there is no sufficient data from which to form a definite opinion on the subject known to me.

The descendants of Joseph bearing the name of Farnsworth are not numerous, but there are many descendants of daughters,

that are scattered over the country. Joseph Farnsworth of this family, probably a descendant of Joseph, Jr., graduated at Yale College in 1736. He married Mary Blinn in 1741, and had children as follows :

1. MARY, born August 1, 1742.
2. JOSEPH, born August 12, 1744.
3. WILLIAM, born April 11, 1747.
4. JAMES, born August —, 1749.
5. ABIGAIL, born August 10, 1753.

A Joseph Farnsworth, probably the son of Joseph and Mary Blinn Farnsworth, was appointed Deputy Commissary to the Continental Army for Vermont, and in 1776 he was at Charlestown, N. H., in execution of the duties of his office to provide supplies for the army collected at Ticonderoga to oppose the movements in that direction of the British troops. He was at the time of his appointment a resident of Middletown, Conn., but he moved his family to Bennington, Vermont, where he took up his residence, and lived the rest of his days. He had a son, distinguished as a judge, a physician and a soldier, Hon. Joseph D. Farnsworth, who was born at Middletown, Dec. 22, 1771. He went to Vermont with his father, and became one of the most eminent citizens of that State. He studied medicine and practiced at Addison, Vermont; thence he removed to Fairfield in that State. In 1807 he was appointed a judge, and the next year chief justice, which office he held, with one year's intermission, until 1824. He moved to Fairfax, Vermont, where he died Sept. 9, 1857. He was foremost in rousing the people of Vermont to oppose the invasion of the British troops by the way of Lake Champlain in the war of 1812, and volunteered to lead them in person.* His descendants are quite numerous in north-western Vermont, where they have been for many years among the most prominent people. Deacon Andrew Farnsworth of Bakersfield, Vermont, and Andrew A. Farnsworth of Peterborough, N. H., are of his stock.

Dr. Davilla Farnsworth, probably of this stock, a native of Connecticut, went west and settled in Ohio about 1812, being one of the very early settlers of that State.

* See Vermont Hist. Gazetteer, vol. 2, p. 179.

THOMAS FARNSWORTH.

About the year 1681 there came to this country a Quaker, who apparently was connected in some way with the adventure of William Penn, who about the same time took a conveyance of Pennsylvania from the Duke of York, and with it a conveyance of western New Jersey. Thomas Farnsworth invested in a large tract of land in the western New Jersey purchase, at what is now Bordentown. His land included all, or the main part, of the present city of Bordentown. He spent the remainder of his life there, where he raised a large family. Some time after his death his family sold the place to a man named Borden, who eventually gave to it his own name. At present the name of the original owner is preserved there only in the name of the principal street of the place, which is called Farnsworth Avenue. The descendants of this Thomas Farnsworth are to be found in Pennsylvania and in the more southern States. Some account of this family may be found in "Bordentown and the Surrounding Country," by E. M. Woodward, Ellisdale, Monmouth Co., N. J.: Trenton, N. J., McCrellish & Quigley, 1879.

There was a Thomas Farnsworth who, I suppose, was a descendant of Thomas of Bordentown, who in the last century was owner of all the south part of Staten Island, near New York, which he occupied as a farm. This Thomas had three sons, Daniel, Thomas and John. About 1821 Daniel moved to Buckhannon, in Upshur County, Virginia, now West Virginia, and took with him five sons, James S., Thomas, Nathaniel, John and Isaac, who all located in that neighborhood, where they became very extensive land owners, and where they had very large families. James S. had three sons, viz.: John S., Daniel D. T., and Moses W. Thomas had two sons, Thomas G., and Franklin. Nathaniel had seven sons, viz.: Isaac P., William D., Thomas Jefferson, Leonard S. S., Calvin E., Daniel M., and James Jackson, and three daughters. Daniel M. served throughout the War of the Rebellion in the Union Army in the First

West Virginia Light Artillery, known as the Upshur Battery ; and Franklin, a son of Thomas, served in the Confederate Army. Sarah, a daughter of Nathaniel, married Edwin Fry, who served for four years and six months in the Union Army, leaving the service at the close of the war as Colonel of the Twentieth Ohio Infantry Volunteers.

Daniel D. T. Farnsworth, son of James, took a very prominent part in behalf of the Union at the breaking out of the Rebellion. He was born on Staten Island, Dec. 23, 1819, before his father and grandfather emigrated to Virginia. He was elected to the legislature of Virginia which was to meet at Richmond in 1861. But as he was for the Union, the war which broke out just before its meeting prevented his taking his seat there. But by virtue of that election he became a member of the convention that organized the State government of Virginia at Wheeling, June 11, 1861. This body authorized the formation of the new State of West Virginia. He was chairman of the committee appointed to draft an ordinance for the formation of the new State, and the ordinance was mainly drawn by him. The State of West Virginia was thereupon admitted as a State into the Union. He served in the Senate of the new State for seven years, and was President of the Senate for two years. During his presidency in 1869, on the election of Gov. A. J. Borgman to the United States Senate, he became Governor of the State for the remainder of the term.

Governor Farnsworth rendered invaluable service to the country during the War of the Rebellion, as it was largely due to his great influence that West Virginia became an organized political power for the defence of the Union.

Thomas Jefferson Farnsworth, son of Nathaniel, and cousin to Governor Farnsworth, likewise distinguished himself as a leading citizen of that State, having been repeatedly elected to both houses of its legislature, and serving as President of the Senate for four years. He was recognized as an uncommonly able presiding officer. Both the Governor and his cousin Thomas Jefferson Farnsworth are large landed proprietors in West Virginia and follow agricultural pursuits upon a large scale.

Joseph Farnsworth of Dorchester, and Thomas Farnsworth of

Bordentown, with Matthias Farnsworth, whose history and descendants form the subject of this work, were, so far as is known, the only emigrants of the name who settled in this country prior to the present century ; and all those found here, except a few emigrants of recent date, are their descendants. In this account of those bearing the name we shall hereafter be confined to the family of Matthias Farnsworth.



MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH.

HIS LIFE AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

Mathias Farnworth, as he used to write his name, a name that in early times in this country was usually pronounced Farnoth, first appears at Lynn, Mass., where he was resident in 1657; that being the earliest date in which his name appears in the records. But he was probably resident there some years before. When he came to this country, how, and with what family, is unknown. But that he resided there, occupied as a farmer, and had a farm near what is now Federal Street, on which he lived till 1660 or 1661, seems to be certain. He had, as appears by the records, one child, Joseph, born there Nov. 17, 1657, and another, Mary, born there Oct. 11, 1660. He probably moved to Groton, Mass., not far from the last date. It is uncertain when the first actual settlement of Groton was made. It was not far, probably, from 1660. The records of the town commence in a very brief way in 1662, though it is very likely that many of the settlers had moved there in the preceding year, and perhaps earlier.

Matthias is first mentioned in the records at the town meeting held in 1664; but it appears by the records that he was an original proprietor, holding what was called a twenty-acre right, that in its proportional application gave him something over a thousand acres. But so far we have not ascertained when he removed from Lynn, or when he settled at Groton. We simply know that he had a child born to him at Lynn, Oct. 11, 1660, and that it appears by the town records on Nov. 27, 1664, he was a recognized and acting citizen of Groton. It would be interesting to know what land he owned at Lynn, how long he occupied it, and when he disposed of it and moved to Groton, and also what children he had born to him at Lynn, but on these points we have very little information. The records are very brief, incomplete, and obscure.

So far as the records go we have the name of only one wife, Mary Farr, who was daughter of George Farr of Lynn. Matthias Farnsworth died in 1689, leaving a will dated Jan. 15, 1688-89, wherein he calls himself "about 77 years of age." His wife survived him many years, dying in 1717, and probably was much younger than her husband. But as his daughter, "Mrs. Robinson," was probably the wife of James Robinson, of Groton, and if so was born in 1647, and was Matthias' eldest daughter, and perhaps his eldest child; and as his last child, Joseph, the second that he so named, was born about, certainly not earlier than, 1678, if she was the mother of all of his children, she must have borne them during a period extending over thirty-one years. This is possible, but hardly probable. He may, therefore, have married and lost one wife before he married Mary Farr. Possibly the reference in his will to some chance of difficulty which his eldest son, Matthias, Jr., might have with some of the rest of the family may have had its origin in the jealousy of children by different mothers. George Farr, the father of his wife, Mary Farr, is named in the letter of instructions sent from the company in London to the officials at Salem as a shipwright sent out by them in that business in 1629. He appears, however, to have given up shipbuilding very early and to have engaged as a land owner in farming in Lynn, near the place where Matthias Farnsworth had land. He had several children who survived him, one of whom married Nicholas Hutchins, then of Lynn, but who soon after the settlement of Groton moved there and purchased land adjoining to that owned by Matthias Farnsworth, and lived upon it.

Matthias made a power of attorney in a case pending in the court at Salem to one Edward Richards, who appears to have been an early settler at Lynn, in which he calls Richards his "beloved brother." This Richards' wife's Christian name was Ann, which, so far as we know, was not the name of any of George Farr's daughters. In what way he came to be "brother," perhaps brother-in-law, to Matthias, is a question which, if ever answered, may throw some further light on the latter's origin.

The birthplace of Matthias in England, and the time of his arrival in this country are, so far as I am able to ascertain, quite unknown. He may have been and very likely was nearly related

to Joseph of Dorchester ; but there is no probability that he was Joseph's son, as has been supposed by some. Yet the naming of perhaps two sons, certainly one, Joseph, has led to the belief that he was at least interested in the name, and that he possibly was a younger brother of Joseph of Dorchester.

The first certain knowledge that we have of Matthias at Groton is in the memorandum of the Rev. John Fisk of Chelmsford, who was a member of a church council held at Groton in the early part of the year 1664 to consider certain dissensions which probably grew out of the settlement of Rev. Mr. Willard as the minister of the town.* The council consisted of Major Simon Willard, and Rev. Joseph Rolandson of Lancaster, and Rev. John Fisk and John Webb, of Chelmsford. This council met at Groton, May 10, 1664. The record goes on to say that :

“ By reason of some uncomfortable differences that had been amongst them as aboute Church Government they had been hitherto hindered from goeing on with that worke of Christ, of coming into a Church way to enjoy all ordinances amongst them they Had now resolved to lay down and bury all former differences amongst them, and had sent to the persons above mentioned to be as a council to them, to which they submitted themselves to them to be directed according to the Rules of God's word,” &c.

This dispute, by consent of the town, was first submitted to a committee of eleven persons, of whom Matthias Farnsworth—the name is spelled in the record, Mathias Fanmouth—was one. The record proceeds :

“ These 11, being called before the Council presented themselves, and being Minded of the greatness of ye work they were now to attend about, and som other things as referring to their owne spiritual comfort and peace, and the honor of Christ and of ye gospel, were desired to go apart and consider amongst themselves if they could agree about a way of their satisfying themselves each in other as to the going on together in that work, and in case of agreement to come to us [the council] and make report of it and of the way they had agreed upon, in case otherwise, to let the council understand wherein they disagreed, and the cause.”

It is to be noticed that this was in the year 1664, soon after the restoration of Charles II., and when men's minds were very unsettled as to what constituted the church, who should be entitled to admission into it, and what should be its government. England had striven with these questions for about a hundred

* Green's Early Records of Groton, p. 189.

years and the great rebellion, with Cromwell at its head, that had been caused more by the ecclesiastical than by the political questions involved in it, had just been terminated. And Matthias Farnsworth, and his associates, who were just building their log houses and clearing away the forest so as to raise grain for feeding their families, while Indians were prowling like wolves around their settlement, were troubled with the same questions that had so long troubled their old home. These were serious men, of prayerful habits, who were in earnest about these questions, as they thought they concerned the substance of religion. And we find his neighbors and the council both looking to Matthias and his ten associates as proper persons to settle this matter for them. The first day the committee discussed the question together in vain. They tried twice without success. They adjourned to the next day, but at their first session they could agree no better. On another attempt they did agree upon what should be required of members of the church, in very general terms, that appear eventually to have been the basis of the action in ecclesiastical matters of the church and the town. At any rate, the council adjourned after hearing the committee's report without expressing any very definite opinion upon it, a course perhaps to be commended for its prudence.* This first glimpse of Matthias shows him to have been a man fit, in the estimation of his neighbors, to consider and act for them on the highest questions, as they thought, in which they were concerned.

Matthias was a member of the church, and no doubt brought up his children in the "fear of the Lord," as all of them became communicants of the church; at least all his sons did so, and probably all his daughters.

The way the thoughts of the people who settled Groton were turned is apparent from the fact that the whole subject of the first town meeting, held June 23, 1662, was to determine where the minister's house and the meeting-house should stand. All matters affecting only this world were allowed to wait.

The next view we get of him is in the same year, at the town meeting, Nov. 27, 1664, and this is his first appearance in the town records, as they now are. As those records are imperfect, some

* Green's "Groton Records," p. 191-193.

parts having been lost, and the doings of the town having been very imperfectly recorded, he may have been connected with some town matters before. But we find at that meeting this vote passed :

Yt Mathias farnsworth shall have forty pole of land to be laid out agaynst his house next to James his broke for a building place provided [it] do not predgedese the hieway.

And at the same meeting we find a record that he and four others, "being chosen imparcial by the town and John Lawrence senior to arbitrate a dispute between the above said John Lawrence and the town, they [that is, the arbitrators] have and do hereby declare yt they do thus determine, that is to say ; his proportion of land being first made good according to his grant, we find ye remainder to be the town's land according as it [is] now bounded." These records, and the fact that in the preceding month of May he had been made one of the committee for settling the terms of their church organization, show that he had both a house and residence in Groton early in 1664, and that he had also been there so long as to have acquired such a respectable position in the judgment of his associates that they were ready to submit to him the consideration, both in religious and business matters, of those things which were of most consequence to them. It seems reasonable to conclude, therefore, that he came to Groton with the earliest settlers in 1661 or 1662.

The land granted to the proprietors of the town of Groton was shared among them in proportion to the amount contributed by each to the common fund. In this distribution the largest amount that was allowed to be assigned to one party was a twenty-acre right ; though any proprietor was allowed to increase his proportion by purchase from the others. The whole land was thus supposed to be appropriated. But by this arrangement it came about that an acre right represented a claim to about forty-four acres, but the exact amount has never been determined. A sale of these rights was held valid when approved by the body of the proprietors. Some of the proprietors, using the privilege, increased their rights beyond the twenty acre proportion by purchase from others. Matthias was an original subscriber for the full amount of twenty acres allowed by the organization ; and his several proportions were assigned to him,

or to his successors to the right, from time to time as divisions were made. The upland early assigned to him for his ownership in severalty is thus described in the records :

“ His house lot, ninety acres more or less, lying on both sides the mill highway, bounded on the north with the sidehill by James his brook, westerly partly by Justin Holden and partly with common land and south east with the mill highway. The other part of his land on the east side of the mill highway bounded with lands of Simon Stone on the north and east and on all other points with the town's common. Six acres and a half, more or less, lying on Indian Hill, bounded west with the lands of Jonathan Morse, and with the lands of John Cooper partly on the east, and common land, the country highway running through ; north with Thomas Boyden, south with the ends of the other lots. Eighteen acres, more or less, bounded west with the mill road, south easterly with the lands of Daniel Pearse, and on all other parts with the town's common. Seventy one acres, more or less, lying on the other side of the mill road, bounded east with the mill road, west and southerly with the meadows of the mill brook, and on all other points with the town's common.”

Besides the above he had several lots of meadow land. The brook forming so conspicuous a figure in the foregoing description as “ James his brook,” was probably so named in consequence of its being the well known hunting ground of an Indian called “ Jeems ” by the settlers, whose remains, tradition reports, were found after his death by the brook, near the westerly edge of the land thus assigned to Matthias Farnsworth.

James' brook is said by Butler and others to have been so named from James Parker, who lived near the brook, before it entered Broad Meadow, on the Main Street. But the lower part of the brook, below the meadow a mile or more from James Parker's house was first called by that name, as if well known, soon after the settlement.

The first of the lots thus described was the one upon which he built his house, and lay on both sides of the road just southerly and easterly from James' brook, where it crosses the second time the road from Groton Centre to Ayer. That and the next adjoining lot was probably in part on the other side of the brook. The last described lot was probably much farther south, in the present town of Harvard, and near the Prescott Mill. Perhaps it was the land on which his son Jonathan afterwards lived. The house built on the first described lot, stood a little south-easterly of the bridge across the brook, about where H. Sawtell's house stood as marked on the map of Groton in

Butler's History of the town. It was a log house, as were the houses of all the other settlers. It was undoubtedly burned by the Indians when nearly the whole town was destroyed by them, March 13, 1676. He subsequently rebuilt it, and it was standing until about the year 1820, when it was torn down to give place to modern improvements. The road near it was one of the earliest laid out in the town and was made to connect Groton with Lancaster, then its nearest neighbor, and was the second Lancaster road, and perhaps is the one referred to in the town records in 1664 which Richard Blood and John Lakin were then engaged in laying out, although there must have been a path opened there as far as the crossing of the brook somewhat earlier. After the road had been opened for a few years to Lancaster, the town made an agreement with John Prescott to build a mill near where it crossed the Nonacoicus, sometimes called "the mill brook," within the present town of Harvard, to grind the people's grain, and saw their lumber, and so it soon came to be popularly called "the mill highway."

In going from the first Groton meeting-house to Lancaster in those days one would pass along on what is now the direct way to the bridge over the James brook, when he would come to what is now the Main Street, and would pass along that street southerly to near where Jonas Prescott used to live, where he would turn to the right, passing by Prescott's blacksmith shop, and thence on, crossing the brook again, passing on the westerly side in the depression between the hills near the brook, through which it flowed about a mile, when he would come to a sharp turn of the brook to the west, and he would find the road crossing the brook again. Then climbing up on to the high land he would pursue his way southerly by the mill and on to Lancaster. It was by the last-named crossing of the brook that Matthias built his house; on his land about there he made his clearing in the original forest; from there he saw the Indians in 1676 burn the most of the town; from there he escaped with his family to Concord to avoid the Indians; to that place he returned two years later, and again began his venture in the wilderness; there he spent the later years of his life; there several of his children were born, and there he died.

The place selected by or assigned to him has much natural

beauty. The land is high, and looked over that to the west and south-west, the only open way, for to the north and east, directly behind him, lay the Indian Hills. As the country there was covered by an unbroken forest, it must have appeared very attractive. The westerly course of the James brook from there to the Nashua river is through a depression between the higher lands to the north and south; and beyond the Nashua it opened into the valley to the north-west, through which the Squanacook runs at the foot of the Shirley highlands into the Nashua, making a view of many miles of gentle loveliness, quite gratifying to an appreciative taste. But at the end of this view and beyond these valleys you look over a beautiful rise on the left up to the Wachusett mountain, and thence northerly along a range of blue mountains that run all the way up to the Monadnock in New Hampshire.

It would be interesting to know the sort of life passed by Matthias and his family in that log-house. Far from the sea coast, far from markets, all the clothing and the food of the family was the product of the land they cleared, and of their persistent labor. All the cloth they wore was spun, woven and made up by the women; and the sheep that furnished the wool and the flax that was wrought into linen came from the farm. And amid so much toil indoors and out, he and his wife brought up to mature age and to be married a family of nine children, losing, so far as we know, only two. He was admitted and sworn as a freeman of the colony, May 16, 1670.

In the year 1675 a war broke out between the New England settlers and the Indians, known as "King Philip's War." It commenced June 20, 1675, at Swanzy in the County of Bristol, in what was then the Plymouth Colony, and soon spread so that many Massachusetts towns were attacked, many of the settlers were killed, their property was destroyed and their houses and other buildings were burned. Rev. William Hubbard, in his "Narrative of the Indian Wars," says:

"March 2, [1676] they assaulted Groton; the next day over night Major Willard with seventy horse came into town; forty foot also came up to their relief from Watertown, but the Indians were all fled having first burnt all the houses in town save four that were garrisoned, the meeting house being the second house they fired. Soon after Captain Sill was sent with a small party of dragoons of eight files to fetch off the inhabitants of Groton, and what was left from the spoil of the enemy, having under his conduct sixty carts, being in depth

from front to rear above two miles, when a party of Indians lying in ambush at a place of eminent advantage fired upon the front and mortally wounded two of the first carriers, who both died the next night. . . . Soon after, this village was deserted, and destroyed by the enemy, yet it was a special providence that though the carts were guarded with so slender a convoy, yet there was not any considerable loss sustained."

The next night in the narrative is probably a misprint for fortnight, as the final attack, when the settlers moved away, was two weeks after, March 17th.* It probably was on the 17th of March, 1676, that Matthias, with his family in one of those "sixty carts," was on his way to Concord in that frightened procession, two miles in length. The Indians were around them, their house was burned, the product of fifteen years' hard labor in the wilderness, except so much as they could take with them, had been abandoned; his wife, his daughter Sarah, then grown up; his son Samuel, six years old; his daughter Abigail, five years old; and his son Jonathan, an infant under a year old, were in the cart. That must have been a terrible time for him. He had with him perhaps—or more likely in the armed guard—his three elder sons. His daughter Mary had been sent, in anticipation of the danger, to her mother's relations at Lynn for safety. It is also likely that his son Joseph had been sent there somewhat earlier for the same reason, and it appears that he died there. What hardships and sufferings Matthias and his family suffered in that forced emigration, and in their residence at Concord, where they and all the rest of the Groton settlers stayed for two years, and how they lived during that time, is not recorded. They stayed there till the immediate danger from tomahawks was over, and they thought they could try their venture in the wilderness again.

In the spring of 1678, when many of the original settlers had given up their interest in the settlement, Matthias and his family, including his three oldest sons, who were then of age, went back to the old clearing in the forest, gathered together again such household stuff, farm tools and stock as they had been able to save, rebuilt their house and commenced anew the work of life at the ashes of their old homestead. But they must have carried on their work under a constant fear of the merciless Indians, who some sixteen years later again fell upon the exposed settlement and murdered many of the settlers.

* Butler's History of Groton, p. 81.

Matthias filled many offices in the town, the most important being that of constable and selectman. The office of constable seems to have been singularly different in its duties from the office at this time, the principal duty then being the collection of rates or taxes for the settlement. The last time he held the office was in 1684, when he was 72 years old. But he lived so far from that part which came to be the centre of the town that very extended or long continued execution of the duties of town office must have been very difficult for him. He seems to have been one of those strong men who naturally draw others around them. Justinian Holden took land and built a house near him. Nicholas Hutchins, who married his wife's sister, sold out his property at Lynn and bought land adjoining to his on the south and settled upon it. Simon Stone, afterwards known as Deacon Stone, came from Watertown, bought land adjoining his, and married his daughter Sarah. And John Stone, brother to Deacon Simon, also came and bought land near by. These two Stones were the ancestors of very numerous families of descendants, now scattered throughout the country. He was not a learned man; none of the pioneers at Groton were so; but he had as much education as the people of his time of the middle class usually had. It has been said that he signed his will with a mark, and that perhaps he could not write. But his will was evidently made only a short time before his death, when he was doubtless disabled by sickness, and there are in existence records and returns made and signed by him, and as he filled the office of constable several years and was tax collector by virtue of his office, he must necessarily have been able to write sufficiently to keep accounts. It is to be hoped that his orthography was not worse than that of some of those who kept the records of the town.

On the 12th day of January, 1688-9, he was on his death bed and took care to provide for his affairs in the world which he was about leaving. He called to his assistance his friend Jonas Prescott, and dictated his will, which was put in writing probably by Prescott, and he soon afterwards died. The day of his death is not known, though as it appears that his inventory was taken Feb. 4, 1688-9, twenty-three days after the date of the will, it is certain that he died within that time. The will was proved Dec. 17, 1689, and is as follows:

Groton Jenewarey 15th, 1688-9 and in the 4 year of the Rain of King Jams the second I mathyas farnworth sen of groton in the county of midlsix in new ingland aged about 77 yers being wall considrat and of sound and parfit Judgment and understanding thanks be to god for it I being sensabl of my many frailties & unsartanty of my natueral lif and knowing what disadvantag many times hapens for want of a Right sating the hous in order being desiras to act and satl things that consarns me doe mak conshans and doe daclare this present instrement to be my last will and tastement in manar and form as foloweth making void all formar wills ather by word or dead but first I Commit my soul to all myty god my Creater hoping I shal Rasave full pardon of all my sins throw Jasus Christ and I commit my bodey to the earth from whans it was taken to be beured in such deasant manar as my exsecters shall see meet and

1. first to the distrebiting my estat I doe give to my beloved wif so long as she lives a widow won third of my whol astat and the moveabls within the hous I doe lave to hur to



2. daspoe as shee pleases and sacondly I doe gave to my son mathyas farnworth for his full porshan that five akker Right which his deed spasefyes and a peese of madow called by the name of half moon madow and twanty akekers of land lying neer a plase called by the nam of Prascots olde mill and this to be counted to be his full porshan unlass he meets with malistation by any relations of his and if so then I will and give to my son mathyas my hom stall that I now dwell upon with hous and barn and that hom stall that my son mathyas now lives on to Return in seed thare of

3. and thirdly I give to my son John farnworth that five akar Right that his deed spasefyes and tan shilins more to be payed of the astat for his full porshan

4. fourthly I give to my son bangeman farnworth that part of my land lying on the out side of my hom stallfans at the lower end of the lot and twanty akekers at the plas near prescotts old mill and six akkers of madow lying at south madow and this for his porshan.

5. fifthly for my son samewall & Jonathan farnworth I doe give the Rast of my land and madow that is undisposed on lying at the old mill for thare porshan

and I give my daughter Robison won cow and to my daughter thacher I give twenty shilins and to my daughter Stoon won cow and twanty shilins and to my daughter abigall farnworth twelve pound for her porshan and as to the Rast of my eastat undasposed of I leave in the hand of my exsectters to daspose of to my wif or children as thay think to be most Rason I mak Chois of my son Mathyas farnworth with nathaniel lawrins sen and Jonas Prescott for exsackters this taken from his own mouth syned and sealed in the prasants of us

his
MATHYAS  FARNWORTH SEN. ◇
mark
NATHANNIL LAWRENCE.
JONAS PRESCOTT.
his
NICKLAS  HUCHINS.
mark

also I give my loam and tacklins for waving to my son Mathyas farnworth.

X^{br.}
17, 1689 Charlestowne.

Nathanll Larrance & Jonas Prescott appearing in Court made oath yt they were present when Mathias farnworth Deced signed sealed and published this as his last will & Testament, and yt he was of sound judgment and of disposing minde when he did ye same and yt they sett their hands there to as witnesses with Nicholas Hutchins.

as att.

SAMLL. PHIPPS *Cler*

The inventory filed is as follows :

Imps. Wearing apparel	2 10 0
Bedding	4 15 0
Linen	1 02 0
Pewter..	05 0
Brass and iron.....	16 0
Chests, chairs and tables.....	12 0
Meat and tubs.....	1 02 0
Books	12 0
Cyder and barrels.....	1 10 0
Yarn, linen and woolen.....	1 00 0
Loom and tacklin.....	2 00 0
Indian corn, thrashed an in ear—tobacco.....	3 10 0
Rye, thrashed and unthrashed and barley.....	2 06 0
Oats thrashed.....	04 0
House and barn and homestall within fence.....	48 00 0
Homeland without fence.....	3 00 0
Outlands and uplands.....	2 10 0
Meadows.....	12 00 0
A very old horse.....	10 0
A yoke of oxen, small oxen.....	5 00 0
Four cows.....	7 00 0
Two young cattle.....	1 10 0
Eight sheep and lambs.....	1 10 0
A sow and pigs.....	1 10 0
A cart plow and furniture.....	1 08 0
Axes, hoes, betle and wedges, sieves, sickles, spade, trammel, tongs, old and impaired.....	15 0
Lumber	10 0
<hr/>	
Debts due from the estate to several.....	1 19 10
Debts due to the estate from several.....	1 04 0
Also to the estate in hemp and flax.....	05 0
Hay in the barn	1 00 0

Feb. 4, 1688⁸ at Groton, considered and appraised according to our best

apprehension as witness our hands being desired thereto by the owners and parties herein concerned.

GERSHAM HOBART.
JOHN PAGE.
JAMES KNAP.

MATHIAS FFARNWORTH.
NATHANIEL LAWRENCE.
JONAS PRESCOTT.

This inventory is interesting in that it shows the property that a man so well along in life as Mathias could, by the assistance of his family, succeed in acquiring in the wilderness, surrounded by savages, and a few years before had seen his homestead destroyed. He had been compelled to leave it a fugitive and pass two years in Concord. His wife survived him many years. She appears to have been a householder in 1692, when the garrisons were formed for the common defence. Probably she continued to keep house for many years at the old homestead. In the latter part of her life she seems to have made her home with her son Samuel, who perhaps took charge of the homestead before he moved to Lunenburg. She made her will, which is dated Dec. 5, 1716, and was proved March 7, 1717, so that she must have died between those dates, but the exact time is unknown. Her will is as follows :

In the name of God Amen the fifth Day of December 1716: Mary ffarnworth widow of Mathias ffarnworth of Groton in the Countey of middlsix in the provence of the masachusetts bay in New England Deceased Beeing very sick and weak in boddy but of Parfit mind and memory Thanks be given unto God for it: therfore calling unto minde the mortality of my bodey and knowing that is Appointed for all men once to Dye : Do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally, and first of all i Give and Recomend my soul into the hands of God that gave it : and my body I Recomend to the Earth to be buried in Decent Condition buigiall at the Discretion of my Executor nothing Doubting but at the General Resurection I shall Reseume the same again by the mighty pouer of god. And as touching such worldly Estate wheare with it hast plesed god to bless me in this life I give Demise and Dispose of the same in the following maner—And form : Imprimis : I give to my well beeloved son Benjamin ffarnworth sixteen pounds payd for him to Justinian holdin for land in the year 1688. And the year folowing one years bord which is ten pounds. And one acre of medow leying in the South medow which shall lie ajoyning to the six acors willed to him by his father Mathyas ffarnworth Deceased. Item I Give to my well Beloved son samuel ffarnworth whom I create constitute mak and ordain my sole Executor of this my last will and testament all and singular my Great Bible to gather with my household goods Debts

and moveable effects by him freely to bee poseded and injoyed. And I doe hear By uterly Disalow Revoke and Disanull all and Every other testaments wills legases and beequests And Executors by mee in aney ways beeforenamed written and Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and now other to bee my last will and testement in witnes whereof I have here unto set my hand and seale the day and year Above written.

By the said Mary ffarnworth as her last will and testement in the presents of us the subscribers.

MARY FARNSWORTH. [Seal.]

m

Her mark.

EPHRAIM SAWTELL,
SAMUELL THATCHER,
DANIEL FFARNSWORTH.

The will is apparently in the handwriting of Daniel Farnsworth, and the signature is the writing of Ephraim Sawtell. This will seems to have been made after consultation with the family. Her grandson, Deacon Daniel Farnsworth, son of John, was one of the witnesses, and her daughter Mary's husband, Samuel Thatcher, who had come up from Watertown to see her in her old age and last sickness, is another. Her mention of her "great Bible," perhaps her whole library, which she gives to her son Samuel, with whom she lived, as her last blessing, gives a view of her simple faith that should be appreciated by her descendants.



CHILDREN OF MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH.

"MRS. ROBINSON."

Matthias Farnsworth probably names all his children living at the time when he made his will in the order of their birth, except that he names all the sons together and all the daughters together. His oldest child was probably Elizabeth, who married James Robinson, Jan. 16, 1667. Her death is entered as occurring "December 22, 1729, aged 82 years." She was, therefore, born about 1647. James Robinson lived north of the present village of Groton. He was an original proprietor in the township, and had a seven-acre right therein. So far as the records show, Elizabeth Robinson had but one child, Elizabeth, born Oct. 3, 1668, who married William Lakin, of Groton, Jan. 4, 1685. He was the son of that William Lakin who was one of the original proprietors of Groton, and great grandson of William Lakin who died there in 1672, aged 90 or 91 years. The William who married Elizabeth Robinson lived not far from the new Groton cemetery. His house is said to have been fortified for defense against Indians. At the time of the attack upon the town by them in 1694, when they murdered many of the inhabitants, it is said they assaulted his house, but that the attack was successfully resisted. William Lakin and Elizabeth Robinson had the following children :

1. WILLIAM, born Sept. 2, 1686 ; died April 14, 1755.
2. HANNAH, born Feb. 6, 1694.
3. LYDIA, born Jan. 14, 1697 ; married Captain Jonathan Sheple, Dec. 26, 1728. She died Oct. 10, 1747. Captain Jonathan Sheple was a prominent and highly respected citizen, and was the ancestor of many persons who have acquired distinction.
4. JOHN, born March 31, 1700 ; married Lydia Parker, Oct. 27, 1729, and died Jan. 16, 1770.
5. ISAAC, born Dec. 11, 1702 ; married Elizabeth Shattuck, Jan. 2, 1726.

The descendants of this family are very numerous, and are scattered throughout the country.

MATTHIAS FARNSWORTH, JR.

Matthias Farnsworth's second child was probably Matthias, Jr. Although we do not know the date and place of his birth, he was apparently younger than his sister Elizabeth, and probably was born about 1649. He married Sarah Nutting, daughter of John and Sarah Nutting, who was born March 11, 1663. As the town records show that they had a son Joseph, born Jan. 17, 1682, he may have been married early in the year 1681, but probably not much earlier, as she was then but eighteen years old. John Nutting, her father, was an original proprietor of the town, holding a seventeen-acre right, and lived directly north of the place where James' brook crosses the Groton Main Street. His house was near the brook, and was one of the most ancient of the garrisons of the town, and not very far from the garrisoned house of Captain James Parker on the southerly side of the brook.

It is not certain where Matthias, Jr., lived, but the uniform tradition has been that he built a house and lived in it about a quarter of a mile southerly from his father's on the same side of the way toward "the mill." A Matthias Farnsworth was living there about 1830, and it used to be said that it had been occupied by one of that name from Matthias Farnsworth, Jr., down. Matthias, Jr., probably continued to reside at the place described until his death, which took place about four years after that of his father, probably in the year 1693, and at about the age of forty-four years. There is much uncertainty as to the exact time. His widow Sarah was appointed administratrix of his estate, Dec. 6, 1698, but the inventory bears date Nov. 8, 1693, before which time he must have died. And he must have been alive March 17, 1692, when it appears by the records that he was assigned to the Farnsworth garrison then organized for defense against the Indians. His death undoubtedly occurred during the disturbances caused by the Indian wars, perhaps in consequence of them; and it is quite probable that the invent-

ory was made soon after his death, which, in that case, occurred not long before Nov. 8, 1693.

Sarah, his widow, caused the inventory of his property to be made, but she did nothing further with it until Dec. 6, 1698, when she applied for appointment as administratrix of his estate. She was thereupon appointed, and Deacon Simon Stone, and his brother John Stone, to whom she was married ten days later, were the sureties upon her bond. The appointment was made, the inventory was filed, and her final account was presented and allowed, all on the same day. The settlement of the estate was doubtless made at that time in anticipation of her marriage with John Stone, which took place at Concord, Dec. 16, 1698. By John Stone she had at least two children, John, Jr., born Sept. 23, 1699, and James, born Jan. 23, 1701. Both of them lived to be married and to have large families. James was a deacon in the church at Groton.

Matthias, Jr., did not live long enough to display his personal qualities so that they can be distinguished very clearly ; but he held several town offices, and appears to have been a man of ability. He served under Major Willard in King Philip's War in 1675 in an expedition to Brookfield. His children, so far as can be learned by the records, which are very obscure and brief, are as follows :

1. JOSEPH, born Jan. 7, 1682 ; died Feb. 2, 1682.
2. EBENEZER, date of birth unknown ; married Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua and Abigail [Tarbell] Whitney, April 17, 1707. They "owned the Covenant," Sept. 19, 1708 ; she "united with the Church," April 6, 1718, and he did so March 3, 1724. They had eight children, and their descendants are very numerous. His eldest son, Matthias, born Sept. 20, 1709, was three times married, left a large posterity, and died in 1796, aged 87. His son William, born August 4, 1714, married Ruth, daughter of Gershom and Lydia [Nutting] Hobart, and granddaughter of Rev. Gershom Hobart, long time minister of the church in Groton. This Lydia Nutting, wife of Gershom Hobart, Jr., was daughter of James and Lydia [Longly] Nutting, and Lydia Longley was daughter of William and Joanna [Goffe] Longley ; Joanna Goffe was sister to Thomas Goffe, a London merchant, for some time Deputy-Governor of the Massachusetts

Bay Company in London, before it was brought over to America, and who declined the office in order that a governor should be chosen who could go to America with the Company. William Farnsworth was a volunteer in the expedition sent by the Colonial authorities against the French in Louisburg in 1745, and lost his life in it, leaving four young children, the youngest of whom was born June 2, 1745, not far from the time of his own death. He has many descendants scattered through the country, chiefly in western Massachusetts and New York, and from thence on through the West.

This William had a son William, born Dec. 27, 1737, who married Hepzibah Chandler, and lived in Hawley, Mass. He was a soldier in the "French and Indian War." He lived for a time at Hawley and at Conway, in Massachusetts. He was during his long life remarkable for his retentive memory, and also for an abundance of wit and humor. He lived to be about one hundred years old, and died in 1837. He had nine children who lived to be married. One of them, also named William, born Nov. 15, 1766, married Deborah Rogers, about 1790, lived some time in Hawley, and then moved into Madison County, New York. He had a large family born in Hawley. Sarah, one of his daughters, married Rev. W. Adams, and lived at Painesville, O. Another, Marshall Look, graduated at Union College in 1825, was a teacher for many years at Norwich, Conn., and elsewhere, and became a minister in the Congregational Church. He was born March 12, 1798, and married Joanna B. Gosman, June 20, 1830, and died Nov. 27, 1838. He had a son, Jonathan Gosman Farnsworth, born Jan. 21, 1832, who was for several years Adjutant-General of the State of New York. He entered the army in the War of the Rebellion, was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel, and made Quartermaster of the Fourth Army Corps. He served in that capacity in the Army of the Potomac during 1862 and 1863. In 1863 and 1864 he accompanied the Quartermaster-General of the army through a long inspection tour. In 1864 and 1865, to the close of the war, he was Chief Quartermaster of the Department of West Virginia. He was an able and very efficient officer. The following account of him is taken from the "Public Service, State of New York," published by Osgood & Co. in 1883 :

JOHN G. FARNSWORTH, ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Major-General Farnsworth, Adjutant-General of the State of New York, was born at Elmira, Chemung County, New York, January 21, 1832. He is a son of the late Rev. Marshall L. Farnsworth and Joanna B. Gosman. His paternal ancestors were among the earliest arrivals of the Pilgrim Fathers in Massachusetts. His mother was descended from the earliest Dutch settlers of New York, coming in a direct line from Rev. Laurentius Van Gaasbeeck, the first clergyman of the New Netherlands. His education was mainly obtained at the Ithaca and Albany Academies, supplemented by a year's study at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. For many years he has been engaged in the wholesale lumber business at Albany, N. Y., as a member of the firm of J. O. Townner & Company. In politics General Farnsworth is a Democrat. On May 1, 1878, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Washington Park in the City of Albany, and still serves as such, his term not expiring until May 1, 1887. General Farnsworth's army service during the War of the Rebellion was notable and brilliant. He was appointed Captain and Assistant Quartermaster of United States Volunteers by President Lincoln, April 14, 1862, and assigned to duty in the Army of the Potomac at White House, Virginia, during May and June of that year. From July, 1862, until August, 1863, he was Chief Quartermaster of the Fourth Army Corps, Major-General E. D. Keyes, commanding. He accompanied General M. C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the United States Army, on an inspection tour from August, 1863, until January, 1864, and was with him at Chattanooga during the siege and its closing scenes, including the battles of Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain. He was in charge of the Quartermaster's Department at Wheeling, the principal supply depot of the Department of West Virginia, from February, 1864, to November, 1864, and was Chief Quartermaster of the Department of West Virginia, with headquarters at Cumberland, Maryland, from November, 1864, to September, 1865. He was mustered out of the United States Service on his own application, October 23, 1865. On March 13, 1865, he was brevetted Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel. From September 21, 1868, until July 29, 1871, he was Colonel Commanding the Tenth Regiment, National Guard of the State of New York, located in the City of Albany. He was appointed Adjutant-General of the State of New York by Governor Cleveland on the first of January, 1883.

Charles, son of the last-named William, studied medicine and moved to Michigan, where he practiced his profession.

Thomas Swift, another son of the last-named William, graduated at Union College in 1838, engaged in mercantile pursuits at Albany, N. Y.; but died very early in 1845.

Chandler, a brother of the last William, born Nov. 25, 1782, went West and settled in Michigan, where he had a family of seven children. One of them, Rev. Calvin Farnsworth, was a

Baptist minister, settled for a considerable time at Spring Valley, Minn.

Abigail, a daughter of Ebenezer and grand-daughter of Matthias, Jr., born April 2, 1718, married Deacon David Blood of Pepperell, May 1, 1740, and had eleven children. Her descendants are very numerous and respectable and are scattered throughout the country.

Kezia, another daughter of Ebenezer, married Jonathan Shattuck, Jr., of Pepperell, and had eight children. Two of her sons, Joshua and Joel, lost their lives in the Revolutionary War.

Lydia, another daughter of Ebenezer, married Jonathan Tarbell, and had four sons, the ancestors of a very numerous and respectable family.

Ebenezer had a grandson Ebenezer, who had three sons, Harbour, Ebenezer and Edmund, all of whom moved into New Hampshire. Harbour, so called from having been born in a boat in Boston harbor, June 10, 1756, married Lucy Hale of Harvard, and lived at Stoddard, N. H. A son of this Harbour, who, continuing the family name, was called Ebenezer, born Nov. 7, 1790, went about 1836 to Detroit, then considered in the extreme West, and established the shoe business. His son, Leander Lewis, and his grandsons, Frederick Eugene, Frank Hickey and Charles Lewis, still continue the business as "Farnsworth's Shoe House."

3. JOSIAH, born Feb. 24, 1687. He probably married Mary, daughter of John and Mary Green, and widow of Jonathan Nutting, June 1, 1710, but I know of no children by that marriage. She died, and he married Mary, daughter of Ephraim and Mary Pierce, March, 1720, and died in September, 1744. By his wife Mary Pierce he had ten children.

Ebenezer, one of the sons of Josiah, born March 22, 1726, married Sarah Walker, who died in 1807, aged 82. He moved to Charlestown, N. H., in 1751, where he joined the settlement then recently made there under the lead of Samuel, David and Stephen Farnsworth, sons of Samuel Farnsworth, and grandsons of Matthias Farnsworth, Senior. These sons of Samuel, and their settlement of Charlestown, then called "No. 4," I shall have occasion to speak of farther on. These kinsmen of Ebenezer had gone to Charlestown, then an extreme frontier town, a few years before, in 1740. In August, 1754, a raid was made

by Indians on the settlement, urged on probably by the French, who were then at war with England, and Ebenezer was taken prisoner by them. He with several others, including Mrs. James Johnson, who afterwards wrote and published a narrative of her captivity and sufferings, were taken by the Indians to the French at Montreal, and afterwards to Quebec. From there he was taken to England, whence he was sent home. After his return he joined in an expedition that was sent against Canada during the war with France, and helped to take Isle Aux Noix, St. Johns, and Montreal. Still later, in the Revolutionary War, he was in the army that made the attack on the same places then held by the English. The pathetic story of Mrs. Johnson, who was carried off by the Indians in 1754, was for nearly a century to be found in almost every border cabin in New England. The children of this Ebenezer nearly all went, soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, tradition locates it about 1786, to Halifax in the north-western part of Vermont. There they cleared away the forest and organized a town. Two of his sons soon afterwards sold out to their two brothers, and went to Westford, in Chittenden County, and commenced the settlement of that place. Levi, one of them, was moderator of the first town meeting held there, and was for many years a Justice of the Peace. The descendants of these early settlers of Halifax and Westford are very numerous, and although many remain there, many more are to be found scattered through the West, into which, as it has opened, all branches of the family have penetrated.

One of the grandsons of Levi, of Westford, is Dr. Philo Judson Farnsworth, who was born at Westford, Jan. 9, 1832, graduated at Vermont University in 1854, studied Medicine and took the degree of M. D. there in 1858, and subsequently at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1860. He moved West and practiced his profession at Clinton, Iowa, and in 1870 he was elected professor of materia medica and diseases of children in the University of Iowa, which position he now holds. He has been a considerable writer for medical journals, and he has published a course of lectures on the materia medica. His brother Henry S. Farnsworth, also studied medicine and is associated with him as a partner at Clinton.

Asahel, the oldest son of Levi, lived at Westford. He was

born April 25, 1787. He was in the army during the war of 1812 with England, and was present at the battle of Plattsburg. He had a grandson, Jay Palmer Farnsworth, engaged in mercantile business at Topeka, Kansas, and many other descendants are scattered through the West.

Ebenezer, the son of Josiah, had a son Ebenezer, born July 12, 1765, who married Olive Hayden. He lived at Charlestown, N. H. There he had born a son Seth, June 4, 1795, who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1822, studied theology, was ordained minister of the Orthodox Congregational Church in Raymond, N. H., October 3, 1824; he left there in 1834 and was installed over the church in Hillsborough, N. H., in 1836, where he remained until his death, March 26, 1837. He was a very much respected minister of that denomination.

Captain James Farnsworth, another son of Josiah, grandson of Matthias, Jr., was born Dec. 2, 1727, and went with his brother Ebenezer, as before stated, to Charlestown, N. H., about 1751, and joined his fortunes with that settlement. He was a man of very superior ability. Although well along in life at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he offered his services in it and was made a Captain. Years had not diminished his vigor, and he did good service in the field.

Thomas, another son of Josiah, born April 1, 1731, after marrying Elizabeth Tuttle, at Littleton, Mass., lived some time at Lunenburg, Mass., and then joined the party that settled New Ipswich, N. H., where he spent the remainder of his days. He had eleven children who lived to mature age, and his descendants are very numerous and widely scattered. His son Moses served in the Revolutionary War. Moses married Annie Wilson of Alstead, N. H., and in the latter part of his life he moved to Sugar Grove, Penn., where he died Oct. 23, 1837. A grandson of Moses, Rev. Wilson Amos Farnsworth, D. D., was born at Green, in New York, Aug. 29, 1822, graduated at Middlebury College in 1848, studied theology at Andover, where he took the degree of B. D. in 1852, was ordained to the Congregational ministry as a missionary at Thetford, Vt., Oct. 21, 1852, and went as a missionary of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions to Cæsarea in Asia Minor, where he has ever since remained, one of the most respected and trusted missionaries of that society. One of his daughters, Carrie Palmer,

born at Cæsarea, Nov. 27, 1854, married Rev. James L. Fowle, another missionary of the American Board at the same place, and renders him valuable assistance in his civilizing and Christianizing work there. John Wilson Farnsworth, another grandson of the last-named Moses, born Jan. 24, 1829, married Nancy A. Jacobs, March 4, 1858, engaged in mercantile affairs and lives at Topeka, Kan. He is a highly respected citizen and has represented the Diocese of Kansas in the General Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The above-named Thomas had a daughter Hannah, who married Abijah Stone of St. Albans, Vt., Aug. 4, 1785. She had a daughter who became the wife of Hon. Jacob Collamer, an eminent citizen of Vermont, who for many years represented that State in the United States Senate.

The youngest son of Thomas was Jonathan, born Aug. 12, 1774, who married Olive Kingsbury. He and his wife were probably born at Alstead, N. H., but they moved to and lived at Potsdam, N. Y. He had eleven children, who are widely scattered over the country, though they were all, or nearly all, born before his removal from New Hampshire. Jonathan's daughter, Philana, born Sept. 15, 1807, married Alpheus Kilbourn, June 13, 1826, and had one son, Hallet Kilbourn, the well-known journalist, and long editor of the *Washington Critic*, a daily evening newspaper published at Washington, D. C. Jonathan's youngest daughter, Mary Jane, married Hopkins A. Reed, Oct. 29, 1853, and they had one child, Henry L. Reed, who holds the very responsible office of Assistant General Manager of the Crown Point Iron Company, at Crown Point, N. Y.

4. MATTHIAS. The fourth known child of Matthias, Jr., was Matthias, born Aug. 6, 1690. About 1704, probably in August of that year, he was taken prisoner by Indians and carried to Canada, where he was delivered to the French. There is nothing in the Groton records showing when or how he was captured. He was long supposed to be dead, but after some time his name appeared in a list of prisoners in the hands of the French in Canada. For more than twenty years after this young man's birth the colony was subject to Indian raids and to the loss of children, for the capture of which the Indians seemed to have a peculiar fancy,—perhaps led to it by finding a better

market for them among the French than they did for adults. It was during that time that the children of William Longley and Thomas Tarbell were carried off. By the parish records of Montreal it appears that he was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church there, and the record, as made in French, gives his name as Matthias Claude Farnet. The name Claude seems to have been given him by his godfather, Claude de Ramezay, who was probably a gentleman connected with the government, then under the dominion of the French King. The name *Farnet* is the approximate spelling by the French authorities of the name, doubtless pronounced Farnoth by the young prisoner. He was naturalized at Montreal, and he married, as appears by the records, Catherine Charpentier, by whom he had nine children. Although they can be identified with very little uncertainty, the name has been by the church authorities of that region most marvellously varied. Young Matthias, about fourteen years old when carried off, had probably acquired the rudiments of an English education ; but he evidently soon fell into an association of French that had little, if any, education of any kind. So the parish authorities, as the children were baptized and married, spelled the name as each one fancied ; and they give us "Farnet," "Farnef," "Pharnef," and "Phaneuf." His descendants, under these transformations of the name, are very numerous, and some of them are to be found among the French Canadian emigrants into the United States.

There may have been, and probably were, more children of Matthias, Jr., than have been named here ; but the troubled times in which he lived, the difficulties under which records were kept, and the imperfection of those that were kept, leave us in much doubt about them. He is supposed to have had a daughter Sarah, of whom nothing at present is certainly known. I think the presumption is that he had such a daughter, and that she married Jonathan Shed of Groton, although Butler's History of Groton is an authority to the contrary. And it is not unlikely that the Rebecca Farnsworth who was drowned in a well at Watertown in 1692, as recorded in Bond's History of that town, was a daughter of Matthias, sent to her Aunt Thatcher for safety against Indian raids, and on account of the distressed condition of the people of Groton.

The forcible and energetic character of Matthias Farnsworth's

two sons, Ebenezer and Josiah, shows that the stock from which they sprung was strong and vigorous, and that the training and discipline which they got from the family surroundings were such as make efficient men. Were it otherwise, two such boys, left fatherless at from six to eight years old in the wilderness into which in 1694, about a year later, came the terrible Indian invasion, when many of the people of Groton were killed, and many homesteads were burned, and where for a long time all the people lived in armed garrisons, would hardly have turned out as well as they did.



JOHN FARNSWORTH.

The second son and third child of Matthias Farnsworth was John, the date and place of whose birth are unknown ; but he was probably born about 1651. He was in general estimation the ablest, as he certainly was the most prominent, of Matthias' sons. He married Hannah, daughter of John and Sarah [Eliot] Aldis of Dedham, Dec. 8, 1686. She was grand-daughter of Philip Eliot, who was brother of Rev. John Eliot, known as the "Apostle to the Indians." John built a house and lived on the place in the southerly part of Groton now owned by Nathan F. Culver, and formerly known as the "Major Moors place." It is marked "B. Moors" on Butler's map of Groton. He was a man of great force of character, and was held in such high esteem by his fellow townsmen that he was, after he arrived at a suitable age, almost continually as long as he lived in public office. From 1709 to 1715 he was a deacon in the church. For many years he was one of the selectmen, and he represented the town in the Colonial Legislature in the years 1709, 1710, 1712 and 1713. In 1689, at a time of great public distress, he united with Josiah and James Parker and Jonas Prescott to buy grain from the town's people for money, so as to enable them to pay their taxes. He also filled many other offices of influence and importance. Very early, perhaps about 1680 or 1690, he built a mill, it may be in connection with one John Page, on his land lying by James' brook, a little east from where the road, passing by the "B. Moors" place, crosses the brook. The remains of the old dam are still visible, though the mill itself has not been in existence for one hundred and fifty years, or more ; perhaps not since the time when he sold it to Abraham, the grandfather of Benjamin Moors, Feb. 5, 1717. In his deed to Moors he calls it an "old saw mill," and conveys three quarter parts of it. His will is dated Oct. 13, 1729, and he died on the 17th day of the same month. John Farnsworth and his wife Hannah Aldis had the following children :

1. ABIGAIL, born Oct. 17, 1687. She married Captain Ephraim Sawtell, April 10, 1713, at Concord. They lived at Groton and had seven children. She died Dec. 4, 1753.

2. JOHN, born Dec. 1, 1689, and died Sept. 19, 1703.

3. DANIEL, born May 11, 1692, and married Abigail, widow of Daniel Shed of Groton, Oct. 20, 1725, but had no children. He was chosen deacon of the church in Groton, May 14, 1729, and died Jan. 27, 1775.

4. NATHAN, born March 13, 1696, was never married, and died Aug. 4, 1753.

5. JOSEPH, born Feb. 26, 1698. He married Rebecca, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca [Gates] Gibson of Sudbury, at Concord, May 4, 1727, and had three children. He died in 1731.

6. JEREMIAH, born March 24, 1701, married Sarah, probably daughter of John Gilson of Groton, Jan. 18, 1728; had two children, and died Nov. 25, 1731. His eldest daughter, Hannah, born March 26, 1729, married Isaac Willard of Charlestown, March 31, 1748, and her descendants are very numerous.

7. HANNAH, born July 21, 1702, and married Ebenezer Prescott of Groton, May 24, 1721. She had eight children, and her descendants are very numerous.

8. RACHEL, born Dec. 8, 1704; married Ebenezer Hartwell of Concord, Aug. 24, 1727.

9. SARAH, born Nov. 20, 1707; married Samuel Hartwell of Groton about 1732. She had one daughter, Sarah, born May 29, 1733, who married Job Shattuck, May 25, 1758. Her husband was the well-known leader in the "Shays Rebellion," for which he was tried and condemned to be hung, but was afterwards pardoned. He was a very able man, but like many others made a great mistake in the course he took. She had nine children by him, and died May 5, 1798.

It is remarkable that though John Farnsworth had five sons, three of whom lived to be married, he had but one grandson, and that one died in childhood; so that there are no descendants of his bearing the name of Farnsworth.

BENJAMIN FARNSWORTH.

The third son and probably the fourth child of Matthias was Benjamin, the date and place of whose birth are unknown. There is reason to believe that he was born at Lynn about 1653, and he is probably the "Bengiman," surname blank, numbered 43 in the list of settlers who had returned from Concord to Groton after the town was burned by the Indians in 1676, as the list appears in Green's "Early Records of Groton," p. 70. If that name was for Benjamin Farnsworth, it is the first time it appears in the records. The list was made about 1680 or 1681. In 1695 he married Mary, eldest daughter of Jonas Prescott, who was born Feb. 3, 1674.

Jonas Prescott was son of John and Mary [Platts] Prescott.* John Prescott was born in England and came to America in 1640. He settled first at Watertown and afterwards removed to Lancaster. He was an heroic figure in the early history of Lancaster and Groton, and would have undoubtedly attained great distinction if it had been his fortune to occupy a more prominent position in the world's affairs. Of a commanding figure, especially when it was incased in the plate armor which he sometimes wore in his dealings with the Indians, he impressed the savages as a superior being. The settlers of the region around him, however, were as much impressed with his great force, capacity, and good judgment as the Indians were with the armor which he wore when meeting them. In accordance with an agreement which he made Sept. 29, 1667, with the people of Groton, he built a mill in the southern part of the town, now in Harvard, on the Nonacoicus brook, generally called in the records "the Mill brook," for grinding the people's grain and sawing their lumber, which was run mainly by his son Jonas. Jonas, like his father, was a blacksmith, and added that business to that of milling. He built his house and had a blacksmith's

* John Prescott was great-grandson of James Prescott of Lancashire (Eng.), who married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Standish, of Standish.

shop at Groton, on the place since occupied by the late Stuart J. Park, as marked on Butler's map of Groton. He also, while probably retaining an interest in the first mill, built another and subsequently a forge at a place, then in the south-easterly part of Groton, now called the "Forge Village," in the town of Westford. He had a numerous family of descendants, many of whom have been persons of great ability and distinction. Jonas Prescott married Mary, daughter of John and Mary [Draper] Loker of Sudbury. According to tradition, her marriage with the young blacksmith was opposed by her parents, who do not seem to have seen his effective qualities so clearly as she did. As the story goes, they shut her up to prevent her meeting him; but in those days it was difficult to keep lovers apart. At any rate, she escaped from her confinement, was married and went to Groton to keep house with a very limited supply of materials for the purpose. But whatever may have been their circumstances when they began, they became one of the wealthiest and most influential families in the region. Jonas Prescott and his wife had twelve children, four boys and eight girls, of whom all but two boys grew up, were married, and left children whose descendants have shown remarkable ability. Their grandson, Colonel William Prescott, was chief in command at the battle of Bunker Hill.

Benjamin Farnsworth built a house and lived on the easterly side of the road running on the westerly side of Broad Meadow, a little south of the residence of the late Abel Farnsworth, as it is marked on Butler's map. He owned a large stretch of land west of the meadow and southerly of the road from Farmer's Row across the meadow to the first parish meeting-house. His house was standing until about 1830; but in the later years it was unoccupied. When a boy I went through it many times with a wondering fear of the memories that haunted it. At that time the most, perhaps all, of his farm was held by his great grandsons, Ezra and Abel Farnsworth, whose residences were upon it. On the westerly side of the road on which Benjamin's house stood, and a little farther south, on the spot occupied by the house of S. Kendall, as marked on Butler's map, was the residence of John Longley, his brother-in-law, the husband of his wife's sister Sarah Prescott, and of whom I shall have occasion to speak farther on.

Benjamin Farnsworth held several town offices, including that of selectman, but he appears to have been less a leader and adviser of men than his brother John. He and his wife were both members of the church, and their children were all baptized. For some time in the latter part of his life his health, and with it his mind, was impaired, and his wife was appointed guardian for the necessary care of his estate. They had children as follows :

1. MARY, born Jan. 5, 1696 ; married Lieutenant William Tarbell, son of Thomas Tarbell, in 1718, and had ten children. Her descendants have been very respectable. Among them were the late General John Tarbell of Cambridge, Mass., who was her grandson, as was also Colonel Abel Tarbell of Squanacook. She died Feb. 29, 1784.

2. MARTHA, born Jan. 9, 1698 ; died Feb. 11, 1698.

3. BENJAMIN, born Jan. 16, 1700 ; married (1) Patience —, 1726, who died July 10, 1735 ; (2) Rebecca Pratt of Malden, May 19, 1736, who died Oct. 1, 1756. He died of small pox Sept. 18, 1757, and left five children. His eldest son Oliver, born Nov. 9, 1727, married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Tarbell, Dec. 14, 1749, and settled at Shelburne, Mass. He had ten children. His daughter Lydia, born May 15, 1764, married Asa Lawrence of Groton, and was mother to Hon. Asa Farnsworth Lawrence, who graduated at Harvard University in 1824. He was a lawyer of distinction, and practiced his profession at Pepperell and Groton, and was a member of the Massachusetts Senate.

Solomon, fourth child of Benjamin, Jr., married his cousin Lucy, daughter of Amos Farnsworth, Dec. 6, 1770, and lived in Nova Scotia, where he had gone some time before his marriage. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War he remained there with his family. His wife had four children and then died, when he married — Chute and had several children. Their descendants are numerous, and the most of them have continued to reside in Nova Scotia.

Ebenezer, the fifth child of Benjamin, Jr., born Nov. 22, 1739, married Sarah Nichols, Feb. 18, 1767. He lived in the south part of Groton in what is now the village of Ayer, and died in 1819. Joseph, fourth child of Ebenezer, born June 4, 1778, married, March 22, 1803, Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Stow of

Harvard. Their oldest child, Benjamin Stow Farnsworth, was born Aug. 9, 1804. He married Eliza F., daughter of Samuel and Mary Valentine of Hopkinton, Mass. In 1836 he moved to Detroit, Mich., where he engaged in business. He is still living there (1891) and much respected.

4. ISAAC, born July 4, 1701, married Sarah, daughter of Samuel Page of South Carolina, April, 1723. He lived at Lunenburg, Mass., of which he was the first town clerk, which office he held for ten years, and he also held various other town offices, and was one of the most prominent and respected citizens of that place. He died in December, 1744.

Isaac's oldest son was Isaac, Jr., born Nov. 30, 1723. He lived in Groton, and married (1) Anna Green, Dec. 4, 1744, and (2) Lydia Moors, widow of Timothy Moors, Oct. 9, 1800. He was one of the most respected of the citizens of Groton in his time. He was town clerk from 1778 to 1781, when he was chosen the first representative of the town to the General Court under the Constitution in 1781, declined an election to that office the next year, and was elected to the office of town clerk in 1785, filling the position for three years. He was chosen deacon of the church in Groton, Dec. 31, 1773. He died in October, 1812.

Deacon Isaac Farnsworth was one of the most influential men in the town during the Revolutionary period. His recognized good sense and conscientious frankness, together with his courage to act according to his convictions, made him a prominent figure. In January, 1773, the selectmen called a town meeting, "to enquire into and consider the matters of grievance which the people of North America and the inhabitants of this province in particular labor under, relating to the violation and infringement of their rights and liberties." A committee was appointed, of which Deacon Isaac was one, that reported in two weeks afterward with a spirit and energy not anywhere exceeded.* At a subsequent town meeting held Dec. 16, 1773, respecting the tea tax, he was again made a member of a committee to consider and report on the subject. That committee recommended the support of the people of Boston in their action upon the subject, and at their recommendation the people voted unanimously to

* Butler's Groton, p. 118.

use no tea. He was also appointed on several committees from that time on to guide the proceedings of the town in matters affecting the then pending revolution. On Jan. 3, 1775, he was appointed one of the important "Committee of Inspection" for the town, that was to see that the recommendations of the Provincial Congress of the preceding 5th of December, 1774, were carried into effect.

Deacon Isaac Farnsworth had a son John, born Jan. 19, 1765, who married Nancy Baker, Dec. 29, 1789, and died Dec. 22, 1843. This John had a son John, born Dec. 17, 1790, who married Rebecca Wright of Charlestown, Mass., in 1814, engaged in commercial pursuits in Boston, and died there Dec. 25, 1843. He had a son, John Augustus, who has for forty years been one of the most prominent citizens of southern Vermont. He was born Feb. 26, 1815, and early in life removed to Saxton's River, Vt., to work in a small woollen mill at that point. Some time in the forties this mill was burned—a serious blow to the little village of which it was almost the sole support. With two or three others, John A. Farnsworth, who had by rigid economy saved a small sum of money, rebuilt the mill which eventually, under the name of Farnsworth & Co., became one of the most prosperous manufacturing establishments of its size and capacity in the State. It acquired a wide reputation for the quality of its manufactured goods, while the firm's name was a synonym for integrity and honorable dealing. In the community in which he lives the position occupied by John A. Farnsworth has long been one of commanding influence. Public office he never sought, although almost continually forced upon him, and he has filled many positions of trust and importance. He has also represented his town in the State House and Senate on several occasions. His wealth has been freely dispensed for the benefit of the church, the community and education, and Farnsworth Hall, the central building of the group comprising Vermont Academy at Saxton's River, of which he is a trustee and treasurer, is an eloquent witness of his generosity to this institution. John Augustus married Mary Jane Osgood, of Newfane, Vt., and has no children living.

A younger son of John, Jr., was Andrew Jackson, born Oct. 6, 1817, who married (1) Rosaline Currier, and (2) Margaret Loach. He was an old Boston printer, but for twelve years was engaged

in mercantile pursuits at Bath, Me. Shortly after the outbreak of the Rebellion he, under commission from Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, was engaged in recruiting a company of soldiers in Boston. At that time [July, 1861] patriotism was the sole inducement for enlistment, and, the first rush to the front over, recruits were few. The general impression then was that the war would soon be over, and Andrew Jackson, fearing that his company would not be filled in time to participate in the struggle, turned over his recruited soldiers to whoever would take them, and enlisted as a private in Company K, Twelfth Massachusetts Volunteers, known as the "Webster Regiment," being commanded by Fletcher Webster, the son of Daniel Webster. With his regiment he participated in the serious engagements of the Peninsula campaign, including and following the second Bull Run. At Antietam he was wounded by a ball passing through the leg, and two days after rejoining his regiment, he was shot through the shoulder at Fredericksburg, a wound that left him crippled for life. He now resides at Grafton, Vt. Andrew Jackson and Rosaline Currier had a son, Edward Harding, born Nov. 17, 1850, and married Carrie Isabel Langdon of Springfield, Mass. He is a well-known journalist, long on the editorial staff of the *Boston Post*. John, Jr., had also a daughter, Emily Rebecca, who married Addison B. Jacques, who was for more than twenty years town clerk, treasurer and collector of Haverhill, Mass., and later for many years was treasurer of the Haverhill Savings Bank.

John Farnsworth (senior) had a son, his fifth child, Rev. Thomas Green Farnsworth, born July 3, 1798, a Universalist clergyman, very much respected in his denomination. He was pastor of several churches. He married Mary B. Hollis, daughter of Captain Jesse Hollis of Boston, and died, after a long and faithful service in his calling, in 1884.

Deacon Isaac's eighth child was Dr. Samuel, born Sept. 29, 1767, at Groton. He married Betsey Fitch, daughter of Captain Zachariah Fitch, of that place, Nov. 25, 1788, studied medicine and settled at Bridgton, Me., where he died Nov. 4, 1817. He was eminent in his profession and practiced it through a wide extent of country about Bridgton. He had two sons who graduated at Dartmouth College in 1813. The elder of them, Dr. Samuel, Jr., born Oct. 19, 1791, fitted for college at the Groton

Academy and took the degrees of A. M. and M. D. at Dartmouth in 1816. His father having recently died, he settled at Bridgton and succeeded to his father's practice. The Doctors Samuel Farnsworth, father and son, and their families, were liberal supporters of the Bridgton Academy. A building has recently been erected for it, with a library, recitation rooms and a dormitory, called "Farnsworth Hall," that will perpetuate the memory of that liberal and public spirited family. The younger Samuel married Nancy Mussey, Sept. 16, 1817, and died April 13, 1842. He left a son, George Shattuck, born Jan. 11, 1821, who married Cordelia C. Frye, Dec. 8, 1847, and lives at North Bridgton, Me. His daughter Virginia Harris, born Sept. 16, 1849, married Rev. Edwin P. Wilson, of Watertown, Mass., and has several children. Dr. Samuel, Jr., also had another son, Dr. Charles Henry Farnsworth, born June 14, 1823, who married Elizabeth A. Potter, daughter of Captain William Potter of Bridgton, studied medicine, and settled as a homœopathic physician at East Cambridge, Mass., where he now resides. Harriet Mussey, eldest child of Dr. Samuel, Jr., born April 10, 1819, married Dr. M. C. Richardson, and had a daughter who married a Dr. Turner, a surgeon in the United States army.

Dr. Samuel Farnsworth (senior) had a son Benjamin Franklin, born Dec. 17, 1793, who graduated with his brother, Samuel Jr., at Dartmouth College, in 1813, where he took the degree of A. M. He studied theology and was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church at Edenton, N. C., where he remained two years. He afterwards devoted himself mainly to teaching. From 1821 to 1823 he was principal of the Bridgewater (Mass) Academy, then he took charge of a girls' school at Worcester, Mass., and later he edited the *Christian Watchman* newspaper until 1826, when he took the chair of theology at Newhampton (N. H.) Institute, where he remained until 1833, and had conferred on him the degree of S. T. D. He then taught for a time at Providence, R. I., after which he was elected president of the college at Georgetown, Ky., which conferred on him the degree of D. D. In 1837 he was chosen president of Tennessee University, in which office he remained until his death, which took place May 4, 1851, at his residence near Lexington. He married (1) Julia Ann Cushing, Aug. 20, 1817; she died and he married (2) Maria C. Ripley, daughter of John and Jane Ripley,

of Boston, and had six children who settled in the West. Henry Fitch Farnsworth, his eldest son, lives in Chicago.

Dr. Samuel Farnsworth's (senior) eldest daughter, Betsey, married Thomas Perley, and had a son, Thomas Flint Perley, born Feb. 23, 1815, who, continuing the traditions of the family, studied medicine, and followed his profession at Fryeburg, Me., where he had an extensive practice. Dr. Samuel's (senior) youngest child was Sybil Anna, born April 25, 1812, at Bridgton. She appears to have possessed in a marked degree the abilities shared by this remarkable family. She married Solomon Andrews of that place, Dec. 5, 1831, had four children, and died at Stamford, Conn., Jan. 22, 1882. One of her children, George P. Andrews, was born Sept. 29, 1835, at North Bridgton. Born into a family devoted to learning and high culture, he fitted for and entered Yale College, where he graduated in 1858. He distinguished himself there as a scholar, and during his course he was chosen by his classmates class orator. On completing his college course he commenced the study of the law at Portland, Maine, in the office of Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, since then a United States Senator and Secretary of the Treasury of the United States. He completed his studies there and was admitted to the bar. In the Spring of 1859 he removed to New York, and entered the office in Wall Street of H. P. Fessenden, a cousin of the Senator. Politically a Democrat, he was appointed by President Buchanan Assistant District Attorney, which office he held for six years under four changes of chiefs. Three of those chiefs were Democrats, and the last, Hon. E. Delafield Smith, was a Republican. A deputation of Republicans, after Mr. Smith's accession to office, waited upon him, and requested him to remove Mr. Andrews as a Democrat; but, notwithstanding his politics, Mr. Smith refused to remove him, saying he could not dispense with his services, and expressing entire confidence in his ability and fidelity. In the office of United States District Attorney, Mr. Andrews had a very large and varied experience, particularly in cases relating to criminal prosecutions, internal revenue, bankruptcy, and the numerous miscellaneous common law and equity cases pending at that time. Mr. Andrews was appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York in 1872; and he found the office fairly overflowing with litigations and with perplexing questions

growing out of the changes in the city charter and government which were made in 1871. There it became his duty so far as he could to bring order out of chaos. He was appointed Corporation Counsel by Mayor Grace, during his term of office. This appointment was warmly urged by Mr. Whitney, then about to retire from the office, and under whom Mr. Andrews had long been serving as his assistant. In the office of Corporation Counsel it became his duty to act as adviser of all the departments of the city government, the Mayor, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, the Aqueduct Commission, the Gas Commission, and the Board of Assessors; and he was, by virtue of his office, a member of the Board of Revision and Correction of Assessments, and City Record Board. His duties as Corporation Counsel were performed with such general satisfaction to the public that he was considered the most suitable person to be presented as a candidate for the office of Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. To that office he was elected in November, 1883, for the term of fourteen years, and he entered upon its duties June 1, 1884. He has served in that office to this time with eminent satisfaction both to the bar and to the people.

Isaac's (senior) second son was William, born at Groton, Feb. 26, 1726. He lived for a time in the southerly part of the town which was afterwards set off either to Harvard or Shirley. But about 1760 he removed to Maine and became a settler in the "Waldo purchase," at what has since been called Waldoboro. Here he became owner of a large tract of land, and was one of the leaders of the new settlers. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Robert Rutherford, a Scotch Irish clergyman of the Presbyterian denomination, who came there under the patronage of the Colonial Governor, as a missionary among the new settlers, and by whom he had several children whose descendants are found in that neighborhood and scattered elsewhere through the country. The late William A. Farnsworth, a merchant of wealth and influence, who lived at Rockland, Maine, was one of his descendants. William was prominent among the defenders of the country during the Revolutionary War, in which he attained the rank of Colonel. Two of his sons, William Jr., and Robert, also served in that war, although quite young. He died and was

buried in the old Waldoboro graveyard, where his gravestone may be seen.

5. EZRA, born Jan. 17, 1703; married (1) Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin and grand-daughter of Ensign John Lakin, who was an original proprietor among the Groton settlers and who came to this country with his grandfather William Lakin. She died and he married (2) Abigail, daughter of Ephraim and Mary [Whitney] Pierce, born Sept. 19, 1723. She died Jan. 8, 1800, aged 89 years. Ephraim Pierce, her father, was another of the original proprietors of Groton. Ezra was a blacksmith, and a lieutenant in the militia. He built a house on his father's farm at the place where his grandson Ezra lived at the time when Butler's map was made, on which it is marked "E. Farnsworth." It was on the southerly side of the road that runs from "Farmer's Row" across Broad Meadow to the first parish meeting-house. He had three children by his first wife and four by his second wife, and died June 19, 1788. His third child by his wife Abigail Pierce was Ezra, born Sept. 21, 1744, who married Betsey, daughter of Captain Joseph Sheple, and died March 19, 1798. He lived where his father had lived, and where his son Ezra lived until his death, in 1856, continuing that Christian name as occupying the place for three generations. He was a corporate member of the Presbyterian Society at Groton during its not very long life. This Ezra had ten children, of whom all but one lived to be married. His fourth child was Abel, born July 15, 1773. He married Polly Goodell of Sutton, Mass., Dec. 28, 1808, and died April 11, 1860. He was a farmer, and his farm was a part of the estate of his great-grandfather Benjamin. The place of his residence is indicated by his name on Butler's map of Groton.

Ezra, Abel's second child, was born Jan. 5, 1813; he married (1) Sarah Melville, daughter of Isaac Parker, senior partner in the commercial house of Parker, Wilder & Co., of Boston, Oct. 1, 1840. She died June 28, 1862, and he married (2) Mrs. Mary K. Taylor of Groton, Mass., March 30, 1864. His education was obtained in the common schools of Groton and in the Groton Academy. His commercial education began in a clerkship in a country store in Groton, which he entered when fifteen years old, and in which he remained two years. He then obtained employment with the firm of Gordon & Stoddard, a dry-

goods importing house in Boston. He served that house so faithfully, and with so much judgment and discretion, that in 1835, at the age of twenty-two, he was sent by it to Europe as purchasing agent for the firm, and he remained there for two years in that capacity. Here his knowledge of business and the world was so much enlarged, and he bore himself so well, that very flattering offers were made to him to take a position in an English commercial house engaged in the American trade, as the manager of a branch of that house to be established in Scotland. This offer he declined, and soon after returned to America. After his return he remained with Messrs. Gordon & Stoddard about two years longer, after which he entered a co-partnership under the name of Farnsworth & Shaw, dealing in dry goods, which continued until 1850. He then entered the commission house of Parker, Wilder & Co., the head of which, Mr. Isaac Parker, was his wife's father. In that house he was for many years prior to his death the senior partner, Messrs. Parker & Wilder having long been dead. Until advancing years made it expedient to resign the position to younger men, he was the financial manager of the house. And it is safe to say that no large financial business has for so long a time been more successfully managed. Its successful weatherings of the financial storms of 1857, of 1861, 1865, and 1873, were, it is commonly understood, largely the result of his good judgment and unflinching nerve.

Ezra Farnsworth was connected with the Boston Board of Trade from its organization in 1854; in 1873 he was elected its Vice-President; he was chosen a member of the city government of Boston in 1856, and the same year became a director of the Boston National Bank. But it was in his religious life that he was best known to the community; for in his business career his personality was largely merged in the business organization of which he was so efficient a member, but in which his name did not appear.

In 1828, at the age of fifteen years, he made a public profession of religion by uniting with the Congregational church in his native town. On his removal to Boston he connected himself with the Bowdoin Street Church, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Lyman Beecher, D. D.; and he remained a member of that church until the year 1835, when he united with

others in the organization of a new church which for some time occupied the Odeon, under the pastoral care of Rev. William M. Rogers. That church removed its place of worship in 1841 to Winter Street, and was known as the Central Church. In that church he was chosen deacon, and he served it in that capacity for a considerable time. In 1853 he changed his church relations to Park Street Church, of which he was soon chosen a deacon, and he served that church in that capacity until his death. In all his long career after his removal to Boston he was identified with the Sunday school interest, and he was connected with Sunday schools either as teacher or superintendent until his death. For many years he was associated with the Board of City Missions, and from 1848 to 1850 served as its president. In 1868 he was chosen a member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, of which committee he was an influential member. In 1865 he was appointed by Governor Andrew a trustee of the Massachusetts General Hospital, which office he held until 1872. He was also a supporter of various institutions of learning, to which he was a liberal contributor in money, and of which he was also a benefactor in various trusteeships, to which he gave freely of his time and the benefit of his sound judgment.

Deacon Ezra Farnsworth's eldest daughter, Mary Rice, born Aug. 26, 1841, married John Lewis Bremer, a merchant of New York, Jan. 18, 1872, and has several children. His second child was Ezra, Jr., born Jan. 3, 1843. He married Leila Frances, daughter of John Jay and Mary [Marshall] Newcomb, Oct. 6, 1869. When a few months over eighteen years old, Oct. 16, 1861, Ezra, Jr., enlisted as a private in the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, Colonel E. F. Jones commanding, to serve for three years in the War of the Rebellion. He was promoted to be corporal in Company B, in the December following. He was made sergeant of the regiment in February, 1862, was commissioned second lieutenant of Company D, in the same regiment, Feb. 11, 1863, first lieutenant of Company C, May 19, 1863, and captain of the same company, Oct. 18, 1864. While serving as sergeant-major he was for some time acting adjutant of the regiment. While he was first lieutenant he was for a time quartermaster of the regiment at New Orleans and vicinity. In the summer of 1863 he was sent north

to Boston Harbor for recruits from the draft, and kept on such detached service until February, 1864, when at his own urgent request, made many times before that date, he was ordered to rejoin his regiment on Bayou Teche, in Louisiana. He was on board General Butler's flagship with the army when Admiral Farragut ran by Forts Jackson and St. Philip and captured New Orleans, and he participated in several small skirmishes in the Department of the Gulf. In May, 1864, he moved north with his regiment, which reported to General Grant at Bermuda Hundred on the James River. In August, 1864, the regiment moved by boat to Washington, and from thence he marched with it through Sinclair's Gap to the Shenandoah valley under General Sheridan. While his regiment was on the James River he participated with it in several skirmishes at Bermuda Hundred and Deep Bottom, Va. While he was under Sheridan on the Shenandoah he was in several severe engagements and his regiment suffered severely. It was in the battle at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864, in which it bore a prominent part and suffered terribly. He was also with the regiment in the battles of Cedar Creek and Middletown, Oct. 19, 1864. In the latter fight he lost his left leg below the knee, in consequence of which he was discharged from the service Feb. 11, 1865. The important duties entrusted to him in the service while he was a very young man show very clearly the high estimation in which his bravery, judgment and discretion were held by his superior officers. After his retirement from the army he engaged in farming in the North-west for a time, after which he engaged in banking, and he is now (1891) the president and treasurer of the Farnsworth Loan and Realty Company, a banking corporation at Minneapolis, Minn.

Isaac Parker, the fourth child of Deacon Ezra, born Dec. 8, 1848, a very promising young man, entered Williams College, but died May 12, 1868, before graduation. William, Deacon Ezra's seventh child, born July 3, 1856, entered Harvard College, where he graduated in 1877. He married Lucy Holmes Burgess of Dedham, Oct. 3, 1888. He has engaged in commercial pursuits and is (1891) a member of the firm of Weston, Whitman & Co., of Boston, engaged in the wool trade.

Ezra Farnsworth, son of the first Ezra and grandson of Benjamin, had a son Joseph, born July 16, 1775. He married

Asenath Waters of Sutton, Mass., where he lived for some time. He took much interest in military affairs and attained the rank of brigadier general in the Massachusetts militia. He moved to and lived all the latter part of his life at Westfield, N. Y. He had seven children, and their descendants, scattered through the State of New York and the West, are very numerous. His oldest son was Asa, born Aug. 20, 1801. He married Laura Abell, and lived in New York city. This Asa had a son, Henry Joseph, born July 2, 1832. He entered a New York regiment in the War of the Rebellion, July 8, 1864, and was commissioned as captain, and made an assistant quartermaster in July, 1864. He served under Sheridan in his campaign in the Shenandoah valley. He was in Cumberland in June, 1865, and later in Baltimore as depot quartermaster. For faithful and meritorious services during the war he was made brevet lieutenant colonel, and at the disbandment of the volunteer army he was made a first lieutenant in the Thirty-Fourth Infantry of the regular army, and brevet captain. He was afterwards made captain in the Eighth Cavalry, and served for some time in Texas. In January, 1886, he was made an inspector-general of the United States Army, with the rank of major. He died at Fortress Monroe, unmarried, Nov. 19, 1888.

General Joseph Farnsworth had a son Joseph, born June 12, 1809, at Millbury, Mass., who subsequently settled at Wabash, Indiana. He married Mary Stevens, daughter of Erastus Finney, and had three children. One of them, Josephine, born in 1835, married Hon. Joseph E. McDonald, who for many years represented the State of Indiana in the United States Senate. Another, Frank B. Farnsworth, born Jan. 19, 1847, married Eliza Rebecca Dunham, called "Belle" Dunham, Oct. 1, 1870, and is a clerk in the Post Office Department at Washington.

6. Amos, born Nov. 27, 1704, married Lydia, daughter of John and Sarah [Prescott] Longley, his cousin, March 20, 1735. She was daughter of that John Longley who in 1694, at the age of about eleven years, had seen his father and mother, and all the rest of the family except two sisters, murdered by the Indians in their attack on Groton, and who, with his sisters, was taken to Canada and turned over to the French. He remained a prisoner in Canada for five years, when he was redeemed by his

relatives from captivity. According to tradition he had become so accustomed to the savage life of his captors by his five years' residence among them that he was unwilling to return, and force had to be used to compel him to leave them. However that may be, after his return, which was at the age of sixteen, he became one of the most prominent and well-to-do inhabitants of the town. He served in many offices of honor and trust, and for several years was the town clerk. John Longley's grandmother, the wife of William Longley (senior), was Joana Goffe, sister of Thomas Goffe, a merchant of London, an original patentee in the charter of Charles I., which was granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company, and in it was named deputy governor of the company. At the first election by the company he was chosen to that office, and he held it until Oct. 20, 1629, when it was determined to bring the company over to this country, and a governor and a deputy were chosen who could leave England at the time. Thus Matthew Cradock, the governor, gave place to John Winthrop, and Thomas Goffe, the deputy, to John Humphrey, who also was unable to go with the company, whereupon Thomas Dudley, who could go, was chosen in his place March 23, 1630. As soon as Goffe could settle up his business so as to come to America he undertook to do so, but died on his passage out. The facts as to this connection appear in a petition of "Robert Rand of Boston, sailmaker," a grandson of William Longley, who presented a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts, April 17, 1734, in which he states that his grandmother was sister to that Thomas Goffe, and that he was eldest son to her daughter, and he prayed that, as the colony was greatly benefited at the expense of Mr. Goffe's estate, which was never paid for, he should have something from the government. The facts set forth by him seem to have been satisfactorily proved, as the General Court granted him one thousand acres of land.*

Amos Farnsworth is said to have been a very tall man, six feet and four inches high, and of very striking appearance. He built the house and lived on the place that was subsequently occupied by his son, Major Amos Farnsworth, on the road leading from Groton Centre to Page's Bridge, about two miles from the old

* See Mass. Gen. Court Records, vol. 15, p. 530, and vol. 16, p. 76. See also Journal of House of Rep., vol. 2, p. 159.

Groton meeting-house. He was a man of much energy, and well educated for a farmer of his time. Having a large family to support, for there were ten of his children, when the British government, after the conquest of Canada, opened the territory for settlement, and offered such terms to settlers of English stock that there seemed to be much to be gained by accepting them, he went to Nova Scotia. He left his family at Groton, but possibly took with him one or more of his sons. There he engaged in surveying, and secured a grant of land at Granville, near Annapolis. He erected buildings and got ready to remove his family there, when he placed agents on his land and returned to Groton for his wife and children. While he was absent, his agents made such representations to the officials of the Nova Scotia government that the title to the lands was transferred to them. On his arriving there with his family he found himself crowded out of his own house. He made a petition to the government, then at Halifax, a copy of which in his own handwriting is still in existence, and had the matter been pursued, he would probably have got his own again. But with his family on his hands, and Halifax then practically a great deal farther from Granville or Annapolis than it now is, it was impossible, for him to wait for justice, and he returned to Groton in 1774 with a part of his family, and settled again on his old homestead. Two of his daughters, however, married in Nova Scotia, and remained there. His two youngest sons, Amos, Jr., and Benjamin, returned with him, and his only other son, Jonas, returned not long afterwards. The Revolutionary War came on soon afterwards, in which he took great interest, but on the 5th December, 1775, he and his youngest son Benjamin, then about eighteen years of age, were both drowned by the upsetting of a boat on the Nashua River.

Jonas, the seventh child of Amos, went with his father to Nova Scotia, and was living there when the Revolutionary War broke out. He was born Aug. 18, 1748, and married Jane Delap, daughter of James and Mary [Kelley] Delap of Granville, N. S., —, 1774. James Delap and his family were also emigrants into that province from Massachusetts. Jonas had one child born in Nova Scotia, when it became apparent that it had become necessary for him to take part with England in the approaching controversy, or to return to Groton and join his fortunes with

the revolting colonies. He promptly chose the latter course, but he had much difficulty, and his family endured great suffering in doing so. He arrived, however, in April, 1776, at the paternal homestead, and built him a house about a quarter of a mile southerly from that where his father lived, where he had nine children born to him in addition to the one born in Nova Scotia. He died July 16, 1805. His wife, Jane Delap, survived him many years, and died May 20, 1826.

Nancy, the eldest child of Jonas Farnsworth, born April 7, 1775, married Amos Otis of Barnstable, Mass., and had five children, one of whom, Amos, Jr., born Aug. 17, 1801, was a prominent citizen, held many public offices, and was for many years cashier of the Barnstable Bank. Nancy died Sept. 5, 1808, and Amos Otis married her sister Sally, born Aug. 7, 1778, and had five children. Jane, the second child of Jonas, born Dec. 7, 1776, married Captain Samuel Holden of Groton, Oct. 1, 1797. He was a very forcible, intelligent and enterprising citizen. In 1798, the next year after his marriage, he removed to Norridgewock, Me., and from thence, some time afterwards, he went to the extreme border of the country then settled, at Moose River, Me., where they had a family of ten children, whose descendants are scattered throughout the country.

Benjamin, the fourth child of Jonas, born July 8, 1780, married Dorcas Whittemore of Lancaster, Mass., and lived in that town. He was a farmer and largely interested in raising hops, the culture of which he advised and encouraged. In consequence of his interest in the business, and of his recognized good judgment, he was appointed Inspector General of Hops by the State of Massachusetts, and he held the office for many years. He had a family of ten children.

Rev. James Delap Farnsworth was the ninth of the children of Jonas. He was born at Groton, Sept. 11, 1793. He fitted for college at the Groton Academy, and entered Harvard College in 1814. He graduated there A. B. in 1818, and A. M. and B. D. in 1821, having studied theology in the Cambridge Divinity School. He was ordained as an Orthodox Congregational clergyman over the church at Orford, N. H., Jan. 21, 1823. He was afterwards successively minister of churches of that denomination in Paxton, Boxborough, North Chelsea, and Bridgewater, all in Massachusetts; and he was in the year 1853

chaplain of the Massachusetts Senate. He made a large collection of material for the genealogies of the families with which he was connected. His largest collection related to the Farnsworths, and without his labors, the fruits of which came into the writer's hands soon after his death, which took place Nov. 12, 1854, this memoir would probably never have been attempted. He died very suddenly on a Sunday morning, sitting at his study table, looking over the sermon which he was about to preach. The text of the last sermon which he had preached was, "It is finished," and that of the sermon which he was then examining and was about to preach was, "Follow me." He was not, probably, aware that his work here was finished, and he was not intending literally to ask his hearers to follow himself, but to follow the Master whom he served. Yet there was a wonderful aptness in those texts, and he would have been, if followed, a most excellent guide into the track of the footsteps that Our Lord had left. He was a man of great liberality and kindness of heart, and led rather than drove people into that divine path. He was a corresponding member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, having been elected May 23, 1846, and a memoir of him may be found in the second volume of the Biographical Memoirs of that Society, page 312, *et seq.* Rev. James D. Farnsworth married Rebecca Miller Thayer Fogg, daughter of Dr. Daniel Fogg, of Braintree, Mass., Nov. 1, 1825, and had six children. Edward Miller, his third child, was born at Orford, N. H., Sept. 13, 1829, married Charlotte F. Pinkham, daughter of Vincent Pinkham, of Chelsea, Mass., June 4, 1855, and is engaged in the wholesale shoe business in Boston. His son, Edward Miller, Jr., was born May 28, 1857, and married Esther Crafts, daughter of John C. and Joanna Paige [Emmons] Morse, Dec. 1, 1881. He lives at Brookline, Mass., and has been engaged many years in the banking business with Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., of Boston.

Amos, Jr., was the ninth child of Amos Farnsworth and Lydia Longley. He was born April 28, 1754. As has been mentioned, he went with his father, when about eleven years old, to Nova Scotia, and returned with him to Groton in 1774. Directly on his return he united himself with a company of "Minute Men" that was organized at Groton under the command of Captain Henry Farwell for the defence of the popular rights. On the

19th day of April, 1775, word was brought to Groton of the advance of the British troops, "Regulars," they were popularly called, upon Lexington and Concord. The company was immediately called upon to meet these "British Regulars," though it consisted only of young farmers collected from the fields. He joined his company and marched that night, expecting to meet the enemy at Concord. But they were too late to participate in the fight which took place that day, as the news of the advance of the "Regulars" did not in fact reach Groton until they had commenced their retreat toward Boston. Fortunately we have a diary of the main facts in this movement, kept by Amos Farnsworth at the time. He says:

We marched and came there [that is, to Concord], where some had been killed. Pulled on and came to Lexington, where much hurt was done to the houses by breaking glass and burning many houses, but they were forced to retreat though they were more numerous than we. And I saw many dead regulars by the way. Went into a house where the blood was half over shoes.

Thursday, April 20. Came to Cambridge in the forenoon. There were some men wanted to go to Charlestown. I went for one and viewed the Regulars, and found they were intrenching on Charlestown Hill.

His diary goes on giving an account of the daily duties and movements until "Friday, May ye 26," when he says:

At night I and about ten of our company marched with a party of men, betwixt two and three hundred, for Noddle's Island, headed by Col. Nixon. We marched through Mystic, Malden and to Chelsea.

Saturday May ye 27. Went on Hog Island and brought off six horses, twenty-seven horned cattle and four hundred and eleven sheep. About the middle of the afternoon went from Hog Island to Noddle's Island and set one house and barn on fire. Killed some horses and cattle; brought off two or three cows; one horse. I with five men got off the horse and before we got from Noddle's Island to Hog Island we were fired upon by a privateer schooner; but we crossed the river and about fifteen of us squatted down in a ditch on the marsh and stood our ground; and there came a company of Regulars on the march on the other side of the river and the schooner, and we had a hot fire until the Regulars retreated. But notwithstanding the bullets flew very thick not a man of us [was] killed. Surely God has a favor towards us, and he can save in one place as well as another. We left the Island about sunset and came to Chelsea, and on Saturday, about ten at night marched to Winnisimmet ferry where there was a schooner and a sloop a firing with great fury upon us there; but thanks be to God that gave us the victory at this time for through his Providence the schooner that played upon us ran aground and we set fire to her and consumed her there, and the sloop received much damage in this engagement. We had not a man killed; but four wounded, and we hope all will recover. One of the

four was a Townsend man belonging to our company. The bullet went through his mouth from one cheek to the other.

Thursday June ye 1. There were sheep and cattle and horses we hear, to ye amount of four or five hundred sheep, twenty or thirty cattle and a number of horses brought along that our people took from the Regulars off Noddles Island.

Friday, June 16. Nothing done in ye forenoon. In the afternoon we had orders to be ready to march at six. Agreeable to orders our regiment paraded and about sunset we were drawn up, and had prayers, and about dusk marched for Bunker Hill under command of our own Col. Prescott. Just before we turned out of the road to go up Bunker's Hill, Charlestown, we were halted, and about sixty men were taken out of our battalion to go into Charlestown, I being one of them. Capt. Nutting* headed us down to the town house. We set our sentinels by the water side. The most of us got in the Town House, but had orders not to shut our eyes. Our men marched to Bunker Hill and began their entrenchments, and carried it on with the utmost vigor all night. Early in the morning I joined them.

Saturday June ye 17. The enemy appeared to be much alarmed on Saturday morning when they discovered our operations, and immediately began a heavy cannonading from a battery on Cop's Hill, Boston, and from the ships in ye harbor. We with little loss continued to carry on our work till ten o'clock, when we discovered a large body of the enemy crossing Charles River from Boston. They landed on a point of land about a mile eastward of our entrenchment and immediately disposed their army for an attack, previous to which they set fire to the town of Charlestown. It is supposed that the enemy intended to attack us under the cover of the smoke from the burning houses; the wind favoring them in such a design; while on the other side their army was extending northward towards Mystic river with an apparent design of surrounding our men in the works, and of cutting off any assistance intended for our relief. They were however in some measure counteracted in this design, and drew their army into closer order. As the enemy approached our men were not only exposed to the attack of a very numerous musquetry, but to a heavy fire from the battery on Cop's Hill, 4 or 5 men of war, several armed boats or floating batteries in Mystic River, and a number of field pieces. Notwithstanding we within the entrenchment, and at a breastwork without, sustained the enemy's attacks with real bravery and resolution. Killed and wounded great numbers, and repulsed them several times; and after bearing for about two hours as severe and heavy a fire as perhaps ever was known, and many having fired away all their amunition, and having no reinforcement although there was a great body of men nie by, we were overpowered by numbers and obliged to leave the intrenchment, retreating about sunset to a small distance over Charlestown neck. N. B. I did not leave the intrenchment until the enemy had got in. I then retreated about ten or fifteen rods. Then I received a wound in my right arm, the ball going through a little below the

* Probably Capt. John Nutting of Pepperell, captain of a company of "Minute Men" from that place.

elbow, breaking the little shell bone. Another ball struck my back, taking off a piece of skin about as big as a penny ; but I got to Cambridge that night.

The town of Charlestown I supposed to contain about 300 dwelling houses, a great number of which were large and elegant, besides 150 or 200 other buildings [These] are almost all laid in ashes by the barbarity and wanton cruelty of that infernal villain Thomas Gage. Oh ! the goodness of God in preserving my life though they fell on my right hand and on my left. . . . I was in great pain the first night with my wound.

Sunday June 18. I and Phineas Hubbard came to Mr. Watsons.

Monday June 19. Mr. Hubbard and I set out for home. Came as far as Lincoln ; met our honored fathers. Got as far as Concord that night.

Tuesday June 20. We got home.

Here he makes a memorandum that "for a considerable time past" he could not keep up his journal on account of the wound in his arm, but under the date of August 14, he says : "Now I begin to write a little ;" and he proceeds : "Monday August 14. Set out for Cambridge got there that day : found our company pretty well." From that day to August 24 nothing of interest is recorded. On that day he says :

About twelve o'clock I had my arm drest. Dr. Hart opened it nigh two inches down to the bone. About 3 in the afternoon Col. Prescott gave orders to march to Sewell's Point, and they marched, but I did not go with them because of my wound.

He remained with the army at Cambridge until Oct. 27, and his diary contains a record of the doings, in which, in consequence of his wound, he was an actor only to a limited extent. On that day he was furloughed and sent home, when it was found that in addition to his wound he had camp fever. He recovered, however, but was unable again to return to the army at Cambridge. I have not thought proper to change a word of this simple record of what was done under his observation and of the acts in which he was a participant from the 19th of April to the 17th of June, 1775. His words are better than mine.

Much that he observed was not committed to his diary, and the writer remembers listening as a boy to his reminiscences of Bunker Hill and other acts in the Revolutionary drama in which he was an actor. Among other things he heard him say that as the troops under Colonel Prescott were leaving the entrenchments at Bunker Hill they met General Putnam, who, with a large body of men, had remained "nie by," as Amos Farnsworth expressed it in his diary, but had not participated in the

battle. Amos Farnsworth was very near the two commanders and distinctly heard the conversation between them. Colonel Prescott began by sharply asking General Putnam why he had not sent up reinforcements as he had promised. Putnam answered that he "could not drive the d——d dogs up." To this Colonel Prescott hotly responded : " Then why did you not lead them up? They would have followed you."

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1775, his father and his brother Benjamin were both drowned by the upsetting of a boat in the Nashua River, near where they lived, and the whole care of the family devolved upon him. Yet, in spite of his wounded and weak arm, and the state of the family, the next year, in the summer of 1776, he volunteered to go to the defence of Ticonderoga, in Colonel Reed's regiment that was raised in the neighborhood of Groton for that purpose. He had served as a corporal at Bunker Hill. He had done so well that he was made an ensign, equivalent to a second lieutenant, in that expedition. He went into service in Colonel Reed's expedition on the 23d of July, and returned home at the close of the year with his men. While at Ticonderoga he was engaged in several small affairs with the British, which he briefly relates in his journal, but which are not of sufficient interest to repeat here. He was afterwards, while holding a commission as first lieutenant in a company of Matrosses (commanded by William Swan) in Colonel Jonathan Reed's regiment, sent with some troops to New Jersey, where, notwithstanding his weak arm, he performed effective service by his bravery and judgment and by his care of his men, with whom he was always popular.

His first commission as ensign, or second lieutenant, was in the infantry. His next commission was in the artillery or "Matrosses," as that branch of the service was called. His commission as first lieutenant is in the name of "The Major Part of the Council of Massachusetts-Bay in New England," as the State government had not then been organized, and Massachusetts was then under an *ex tempore* government. His commission as first lieutenant is as follows :

State of } *The Major Part of the Council of Massachusetts-*
Massachusetts Bay. } *Bay in New England.*



TO AMOS FARNSWORTH, GENTLEMAN, GREETING.

You being appointed First Lieutenant of a company of Matrosses (commanded by William Swan) raised in the Sixth Regiment of Militia in the County of Middlesex whereof Jonathan Reed Esquire is Colonel to rank as Captain,—By Virtue of the Power vested in us, We do by these Presents (reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct,) Commission you accordingly.—You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a First Lieut. in leading, ordering, and exercising said Company in Arms, both inferior Officers and Soldiers ; and to keep them in good Order and Discipline ; And they are hereby commanded to obey you as their first Lieut., and you are yourself, to observe and follow such Orders and instructions as you shall from Time to Time receive from the Major Part of the Council or your Superior Officers.

GIVEN under our Hands, and the Seal of the said State at Boston the Nineteenth Day of October in the Year of our LORD, 1778.

JER. POWELL
 ARTEMAS WARD
 T. CUSHING
 BENJ. AUSTIN
 H. GARDNER
 D. HOPKINS
 SAML. DANIELSON
 N. CUSHING
 B. WHITE
 DANL. DAVIS
 OLIVER PRESCOTT
 OLIVER WENDELL
 A. FULLER
 E. BROOKS
 FRA. DANA

By the Command of the Major Part of the Council

JOHN AVERY, Dy Secy.

After the close of the war, July 9, 1753, he was commissioned as "Captain of a company of Matrosses in the Brigade of Militia in the County of Middlesex." That company is the old Groton Artillery Company. The commission bears the signature of John Hancock as "Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." This company is still in existence. His next commission, signed by Samuel Adams as Governor, appoints him "Major of a Battalion of Artillery in the Second Brigade of the Third Division

of the Militia of this Commonwealth comprehending the County of Middlesex," and is dated July 1, 1794.

The poverty of the people of Massachusetts at the close of the Revolutionary War, and their distress in consequence of it was very great. Paper money became valueless; many were heavily indebted; taxes were burdensome; and the way out of their difficulties was obscure. Great economy in the government was needed and practiced. The military organizations were reduced to a point lower than was consistent with safety. In the year 1786 the "Shay's Rebellion" broke out. The necessity of having some provision in the laws for the collection of debts so exasperated some hasty and indebted persons that they did as has been done in other periods of the world's history, they rebelled. Job Shattuck of Groton was one of the leaders in the rebellion. The cannon of the Groton Artillery Company, then under Major Farnsworth's command, were usually kept in an out-building on his farm. The first movement made by Shattuck and his associates was one October night, 1786, to break open the building in which the guns were stored, drag them across the fields to the Nashua River and pitch them into it, after which they retired quietly to their homes. The loss of the guns was learned early the next morning; the course taken with them was tracked through the frosty grass; they were very soon found, and before night they were restored to the place from which they had been taken, and a guard was kept over them afterwards until the close of the political troubles.

Amos Farnsworth had the reputation of being an efficient and very popular officer. In addition to his military services he was for several years a deacon of the church in Groton, and he served the church in many business ways until old age diminished his powers. He died Oct. 29, 1847, at the advanced age of ninety-three years and six months. His wife survived him but a few weeks, and died Dec. 11, 1847, aged ninety years.

Major Amos Farnsworth's eldest son, Luke, born Sept. 16, 1785, married, April 6, 1814, Sarah, daughter of Oliver and Hannah [Kelley] Hartwell of Lyndon, Vt. He was a farmer at Groton and died there May 17, 1876, in his ninety-first year. His eldest son Claudius Buchanan, born Jan. 8, 1815, married, Feb. 27, 1851, Marianna, daughter of Joseph and Ann [Mayberry] McIntire of Pawtucket, R. I. He fitted for college

at the Groton Academy and graduated at Harvard College A. B. in 1841. He entered the law school of that university, where he remained a while ; and he continued and finished his studies with Timothy G. Coffin, Esq., of New Bedford, Mass., and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar at Taunton in March, 1844. He commenced the practice of the law directly after at Pawtucket, then under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, but which was in 1862 made a part of the State of Rhode Island. In 1859 he was made treasurer of the Dunnell Manufacturing Company, then carrying on the business of calico printing at Pawtucket. He held that office until 1881, when he resigned, and resumed the practice of law at Pawtucket. He is the author of these memoirs, having been led to collect the materials and to prepare them by his early association with his kinsman, Rev. James D. Farnsworth, who died early, and whose papers were committed to his hands.

Claudius Buchanan had a son John Prescott, born Feb. 19, 1860, who entered Harvard College, where he graduated A. B., 1881, and went at once into the business of bleaching. He is at present the general agent and treasurer of the Providence Dying, Bleaching and Calendering Company, one of the oldest business corporations in Rhode Island. He married Margaret Cochrane, daughter of William and Elizabeth [Cochrane] Barbour of New York city, Nov. 25, 1885, and has a son John Prescott, Jr., born Feb. 8, 1888.

Claudius Buchanan has also a son, Claude Joseph, born Dec. 15, 1862, who entered Brown University in 1880. Having an attack of typhoid fever that rendered him unable to continue with his class, in his senior year he left college, and as soon as he was able to do so commenced the study of the law, and was admitted to practice at the Rhode Island bar in February, 1887, and is now engaged in the practice with his father at Pawtucket, R. I. On the election of John W. Davis as Governor of Rhode Island in 1887 he was appointed private secretary to the governor, and on Governor Davis' reelection to office in 1890, he was appointed "Executive Secretary," an office then recently created by the General Assembly, the advantages of which were made clear by his previous services as private secretary, which was an office extemporized by the governor.

Major Amos's second son was Amos, the third in descent of

that name, born Aug. 30, 1788. He commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Thomas of Tyngsborough, Mass., and continued and completed his studies with Dr. John C. Warren of Boston. He was appointed a surgeon's mate by the President in the army engaged in the war with England, April 14, 1812. He left South Boston in that capacity with the Fourth Regiment of Infantry, June 15, 1812, for Burlington, Vt., his regiment having been assigned to the defense of that frontier. He wrote his thesis, which was upon the subject of pneumonia, in camp by the light of pine knots; he submitted it to the university examiner and was graduated in the Harvard Medical School in 1813. He resigned his commission and commenced the practice of medicine at Boston, May 1, 1814, and was elected a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Oct. 2, 1816. He continued in practice at Boston for about twelve years. In 1832 he moved to Groton and lived for several years near the old homestead of his ancestor, Jonas Prescott. Dr. Amos married Mrs. Mary Bourne Webber, widow of Captain Seth Webber of Boston, March 21, 1823. He died July 31, 1861. He was an ardent supporter of the anti-slavery cause in the days when it was most unpopular; and his hospitable home at Groton was the resort of the leaders of that cause. There came George Thompson, and Wendell Phillips, and Samuel J. May, and William Lloyd Garrison, with many of the lesser lights of that movement, that in about twenty years after Garrison had sounded his trumpet blast in his paper in Baltimore, swept away the whole fabric of negro slavery in the United States. Dr. S. A. Green, in his "Groton Historical Series," vol. 1, No. 11, p. 20, says of him:

He was a man of marked ability, and Mr. Hawley's appreciation of his character is eminently just. At an early period he espoused the cause of the slave when it cost a man his social position and popularity to take the side of that unfortunate class. He was with Garrison at the time of the "Garrison mob" in Boston, Oct. 21, 1835, and he also helped largely to furnish the means for starting the "National Anti-Slavery Standard" at New York. Dr. Farnsworth's labors are noticed in the second volume of Mr. Garrison's life, recently published.

The "Mr. Hawley's appreciation," referred to above, is in the same number of Dr. Green's "Historical Series," just quoted, page 6, where he says:

This brought one fortunately to Groton and to the charming home of Dr.

Amos Farnsworth. I was his guest by virtue of his membership in the Executive Committee of the State [Anti-Slavery] Society. And, as intimated, a high favor it was. A home indeed was his. While there was nothing pretentious about it, everything was in taste. All was solidly sensible. He had buried his wife, and yet his home had the light and cheer of a lovely daughter. There were two sons also, and of promise, one of them a student at Cambridge*. Still he himself was the central charm. He was tall and symmetrically built; with a large head, mild eyes, broad, expansive, pleasant face, and compressed lips. Everything indicated strength and good nature. With the elements of a commander, he had the gentleness of a woman. He was one of the sunniest of men. Though impressing you with his superiority you felt wholly at ease in his presence. You knew him at once; could trust him at sight. And greatly was I struck with his originality. It cropped out in everything. He could not think in a groove, or act in a groove; no copyist could he be. In the rig of his horse and the way of treating him on a trip, you saw it. So, and more strikingly, in his treatment of vines and fruit trees, and the preservation of their products. He had Cato's love of these things; had means too. Retired from a long and lucrative practice in Boston, he was able to work out his ideal. Of course he had the best. And he had a method, it seemed, strictly his own of preserving the same. I own I was not a little irked when I could not draw from him the secret of this to me surprising preservation. At a select party at his house, as late as February [1840], I think, he had on his table water-melon seemingly as fresh as when taken from the vines, also choice varieties of grapes in a like state. Pressing him for the secret, I got this in reply: "The Hon. George Thompson,"—alluding to the great anti-slavery orator—"occupying the very seat you occupy, put to me the same question; and he went back to England just as wise on the subject as when he came." This I knew was decisive . . . Needless is it to add that my esteemed host was a man of positive convictions, and was loyal to them. He could not be anything else. When he took a stand he was fixed in it; when he set his foot down it was down. And this fitted him for his time. It made him the stalwart reformer he was.

The "lovely daughter" of Dr. Amos, referred to by Mr. Hawley, was necessarily his only daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born Dec. 28, 1823, and then about fifteen or sixteen years old. She married Josiah Burrage Kilbourn, Dec. 9, 1851. He died, and she then married Samuel Hall, May 2, 1861, by whom she had Prescott Farnsworth, born Sept. 27, 1868, who graduated at Harvard University in 1889.

Amos Henry, Dr. Amos's eldest son, was born Aug. 8, 1825, graduated at Harvard University A. B., 1844, and took the degree there of L. L. B., in 1846. He married Julia P. Cushman of Troy, N. Y., and resides there. George Bourne, his youngest son, was born Feb. 29, 1828, graduated at Harvard University

* He is speaking of the year 1841.

A. B. in 1847, and A. M. in 1850. He was appointed a lieutenant in the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment of Cavalry (colored) in the War of the Rebellion, and served until the close of the war. He married Marian S. True, daughter of Dr. N. B. True of Bethel, Me., June 1, 1870, and lived at Boston, where he died April 12, 1887.

Major Amos Farnsworth's next child was Elizabeth, born Oct. 19, 1792. She was a woman of great intellectual capacity and force of character. The following just description of her character is from the *Boston Commonwealth* of Feb. 23, 1884 :

In Groton, 2d. inst., [Feb. 2, 1884] Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth, aged 91 yrs. 3 mos., daughter of Major Amos Farnsworth, who fought at Bunker Hill.

This lady was a rare specimen of a genuine New England woman—strong in intellect, decided and independent in character, of great energy, and firm in her religious faith, and a constant reader of the best books, having a tenacious memory and keeping herself well informed of things occurring all over the world, in which she retained the vivid interest of a young person. An early Garrison abolitionist (as were her whole family), she was in sympathy with all reformatory efforts, including those to secure larger rights for women, and herself voted at the town election for school committee when 86. She excelled as a most ready letter-writer, and wrote a long letter the very morning of her death, which occurred suddenly, while her mind was as bright as ever. Among her papers has been found the following letter from Mr. Garrison, written her about five weeks before his death, dated Roxbury, April 19, 1879. After acknowledging some gifts for the suffering colored people in Kansas, he says :

It would be indeed a most pleasing occurrence to me if I could have the opportunity of seeing you face to face and conversing with you in regard to things past and present, but though I am at least twelve years your junior, my health is so far affected that I am obliged to keep very closely to my home, though none the less in favor of "immediate and unconditional emancipation" "from all the ills that flesh is heir to;" but happily that will be realized at no distant day, in accordance with the law of mortality. I bear in affectionate remembrance your deceased brother, Dr. Amos Farnsworth, whose friendship I greatly prized, and who brought to the anti-slavery cause an inflexible purpose, a whole souled consecration, a warmly sympathetic spirit, and a noble disregard of that "fear of man that bringeth a snare." I hope to clasp hands with him on another plane of existence, and with many other dear friends and co-workers who have preceded me in the matter of translation to a higher life. May the remainder of your days be without any drawback and yet extended to a centennial period.

Yours with profound respect,

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

Mr. Silas Hawley, in the article before referred to when

speaking of her brother, Dr. Amos Farnsworth, in Dr. Green's "Groton Historical Series," vol. 1, No. 11, page 12, says :

One of the most marked of these is Elizabeth Farnsworth : she would be marked anywhere. Remarkable was her brain-power and force of character. Physically much like her brother, the doctor ; mentally if anything his superior. She was capable of filling any position, and with honor. Her mind was decidedly of a philosophical cast ; broad, deep and intensely clear. She was quick to detect error and to see truth, and grandly able to expose the one and defend the other. Her pen was keen, incisive, strong ; so to the last. I have scores of her letters, which if printed in a volume would attract wide attention ; and age, as hinted, had no power to impair that pen. Her last letters to me, and when she was along in the nineties, are as racy, trenchant and nervous as any I ever received from her. Her penmanship, too, held much the same. I have surprised and delighted numbers of my friends by showing them these letters. The like none of them had ever seen. She was early a Christian and of the Puritan stamp. Hers was the faith brought in the Mayflower.

Elizabeth Farnsworth was the cousin and schoolmate of Rev. James D. Farnsworth, and his early efforts at collecting the family history were greatly aided by her, whose memory was remarkably tenacious, and who had a kind of intuitive skill in sorting out from the current traditions the true from the false.

Major Amos Farnsworth's fourth child was Ralph, born Sept. 20, 1795. After working on his father's farm until he had arrived at mature years, he determined to acquire a thorough education. He fitted for college at the Groton Academy in eleven months, and entered at Harvard at commencement 1817. There, by sheer force of intellect and hard work, he graduated among the best seven of his class in 1821, with Governor Kent of Maine and Ralph Waldo Emerson. After graduating he taught a school at Portsmouth, N. H., for a time, where he stood so well that Dartmouth College gave him the honorary degree of A. M. in 1825. He studied medicine with Dr. John C. Warren of Boston, and took his degree of M. D. at the Harvard Medical School in 1826, and his thesis which he prepared for the occasion was so well appreciated by the examiners that it was awarded the Boylston prize. He settled at Norwich, Conn., the same year and commenced the practice of medicine, which he pursued with enthusiasm to the end of his life, which came to him July 16, 1875. He was a splendidly developed man physically, capable of enduring any amount of continuous work, and he was also as well equipped mentally. Dr. Willard Parker spoke of him as

“seven men in one.” He brought to his professional labors a mind fit for the work, thoroughly equipped with all that was then known in the profession ; and he never ceased adding to his knowledge by carefully examining all the current medical literature of his time, and making it subservient to the wants of his practice. He was by nature unable to be a mere routine physician ; but he brought all new discoveries, not only in his profession, but in general science, to assist his work, and he won a reputation for skill and capability as a practitioner throughout the State.

Dr. Ralph Farnsworth, like his brother and sister, took a strong interest in all public movements, and equally with them was a man of very positive opinions. He was among the first to take the ground that slavery was a great wrong, and was to be attacked wherever it could be reached. He did not, however, favor the formation of a third political party to secure the desired end, but thought slavery could be best opposed in the old Whig party, until the formation by a sort of natural selection of the Republican party, with which he united ; and his strong convictions made him an ardent supporter of it. Such a constitution, with such convictions, usually arouse opposition ; they did so in his case. Weaker and less positive minds do not see things with the distinctness with which they appear to the stronger man. But he usually expressed his opinions with such clearness that they could be understood by all, and they were acceded to because his logic was invincible. And yet he was a man of the kindest heart, and tenderest sympathies. No man was ever looked to by people of all grades and associations in times of real trouble with more confidence that he would both understand and appreciate their condition than Dr. Ralph Farnsworth. He married Eunice, daughter of Coddington Billings, Esq., of New London, Conn., Nov. 25, 1828, and had several children, of whom two sons and a grandson survived him. One of his sons, Coddington Billings, born Sept. 9, 1829, studied medicine and succeeded to his father's practice at Norwich, where he now resides. Another, Frederick, born Dec. 5, 1842, took the degree of P. B. at Yale College in 1864, studied medicine and took the degree of M. D. at the same college in 1867. Soon after he went into commercial business at Philadelphia, from which he has recently retired, and he is now residing at New London, Conn.

Dr. Ralph had also a son Charles, born Jan. 30, 1836, who did good service to the country in the War of the Rebellion. He entered the First Regiment of Connecticut Cavalry, and was commissioned as a captain. In April, 1862, while scouting with twelve men he was attacked by a strong force of rebels, and was severely wounded. He halted his men and formed them in line of battle, but fainting from loss of blood he was brought into camp. Recovering from his injuries, he rejoined his command. He was appointed major as a recognition of his valiant services. Afterwards, in July, 1863, he was ordered with fifty men to reconnoitre the enemy's position. He did so, and charged upon a cavalry picket of two hundred men and drove them within their lines, capturing many prisoners. The rebels, finding that his force was small, rallied, and a hand-to-hand fight followed. His horse was shot, and he, with twenty-six of his men, was taken prisoner and put in the Libby prison at Richmond, where he remained for eight months. He was then appointed Lieutenant Colonel; but his health was so broken by his wounds and imprisonment that he resigned, and was honorably discharged, May 17, 1864, with the rank of colonel, and with the record of a brave and spirited officer, well adapted to his arm of the service. The report on rebel prisons says :

Among those who contributed testimony based on personal knowledge was Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Farnsworth. His letters were of great interest; his evidence on points of fact emphatic; exposing clearly the sufferings and horrors incident to life in Libby prison and at Belle Isle.

In another place the report says :

Lieutenant-Colonel Farnsworth, of the First Connecticut Cavalry, was also an inmate of Libby; and while there did what he could to see that those of his own command captured with him, as well as others whom he knew, shared with him the good things sent to him from his own home. His thoughtfulness and zeal in this particular were remembered with devout gratitude by some who returned to speak of it, and who felt their own preservation from death by starving was due to him. When he was exchanged and returned home, he not only had words of testimony concerning the inhuman treatment which prevailed at Richmond, but he forwarded as early as possible to those he left behind him in confinement a box containing such things as he knew from experience would comfort and cheer them.

By the time he had recovered from the effects of his wounds and his imprisonment the war was over. He then engaged in

business at Savannah, Ga., and married, Nov. 1, 1865, Harriet Peck Lester of Norwich, Conn. About that time he engaged in rice planting in Georgia, and procured a rice plantation. In going in a boat from his house to the plantation his boat was upset, and he was drowned, April 17, 1867. He left a son, born after his death, June 11, 1867, who graduated A. B. at Brown University in 1889, and then became a student in the Law School of Harvard University.

Walter was the fifth and youngest of the children of Major Amos Farnsworth. He was born April 9, 1798. He engaged in mercantile pursuits in Boston, in which he was very successful. He married Elizabeth Loring, daughter of Alexander Young of Boston. He died Feb. 26, 1881.

7. LYDIA, born Sept. 26, 1706. She married, Dec. 29, 1725, Samuel Tarbell, brother to William Tarbell, who married her sister Mary, by whom she had nine children. She died Nov. 11, 1778. Her daughter Lydia, born Oct. 9, 1727, married Captain Henry Farwell of Groton, who commanded the company of "Minute Men" that, we have seen, pursued on the 19th of April, 1775, the British troops who had marched out to Lexington and Concord. He with his company remained in service until the battle of Bunker Hill, in which his command took a prominent part. Lydia had three children.

8. AARON was the eighth child of Benjamin, and was born Aug. 29, 1709. He married (1) Hannah Barron. She died and he married (2) Sarah — ; (3) Elizabeth, widow of Josiah Parker; she died Dec. 12, 1766; and he married (4) June 16, 1767, Sarah Bennett, who survived him and subsequently married — Bolton, and died June 24, 1822, aged ninety-nine years and ten months. Aaron died in July, 1769.

Mary, the third child of Aaron, born May 29, 1732, married Colonel Osman Baker, Jr., March 2, 1767. Colonel Baker, with his father, had been among the early settlers of Charlestown, N. H., and she went there to live. She had two sons, Major Jonathan and Dr. Isaac Baker, both of whom were distinguished men. She died Sept. 19, 1796.

Hannah, the fourth child of Aaron Farnsworth, born June 11, 1734, married James Locke, Jr., of Townsend, where she went to live. She had a daughter Eunice who tells the following story of the enthusiasm existing in that branch of the family

during the Revolutionary War. It is to be found in Sawtell's History of Townsend. She says :

Late one afternoon in May, 1777, when I was a few months short of fifteen years old, notice came to Townsend that fifteen soldiers were wanted. The train band was instantly called out, and my brother next older than myself was one of those selected. He did not return till late that night when all were in bed. When I rose the next morning mother informed me that brother John was to march the day after to-morrow at sunrise. My father was in Boston in the Massachusetts Assembly. Mother said John would be away seven or eight months, and would suffer for want of winter garments. There was at that time no store, and no articles to be had except such as each family could make itself. The sight of my mother's tears brought all my strength of mind into action. I asked what garments were needful. She said "pantaloons." "Oh, if that is all," I said, "we will spin and weave him a pair before he goes." "But," said my mother, "the sheep are in the pasture and the wool is on their backs." I bade a younger brother bring a salt dish and call them to the yard. Mother replied : "Poor child, there are no sheep shears within three miles and a half." "I have some small shears at the loom," said I. "But we cannot spin and weave it in so short a time." "I am certain we can." "How can you weave it? There is a long web of linen in the loom." "No matter, I can find an empty loom." By this time the sound of the sheep made me quicken my steps. I asked my sister to bring the wheel and cards while I went for the wool. I went to the yard with my brother and sheared with my loom shears from a white sheep half enough for the web, and then from a black sheep enough wool for my filling and half the warp. The wool was duly carded and spun, washed, sized and dried. A loom was found a few doors off; the web got in, woven and prepared, and the pantaloons were cut and made two or three hours before my brother's departure, that is in forty hours from the commencement, without help from any modern improvement.

This heroine, Eunice Locke, married Edmund Richards of Rockingham, Vt., Jan. 1, 1787.

9. MARTHA, the ninth child of Benjamin was born May —, 1711. She married Captain John Stevens of Groton, Oct. 11, 1728. They lived some time at Townsend, but he died and was buried in Groton.

10. JONAS, born Oct. 4, 1713. He married Thankful Ward of Worcester, —, 1739, who died May 1, 1799, aged 88. He died Dec. —, 1803. He was a joiner, and lived on the "great road" to Boston, a little south of the old "Prescott place." He was interested in the immigration made by his brother Amos and some others of the family to Nova Scotia, as before stated. Whether he went there himself I am not certain. Several of his children, however, joined the expedition, and it is not unlikely

that he did so. He had nine children, all but one of whom were married, and six of them went to Nova Scotia to live. His son, Jonas, Jr., born Oct. 2, 1744, married Sarah Delap of Granville, N. S., June 13, 1775. He joined his fortunes with the revolted colonies, moved into Maine and was one of the original settlers of Machias. He was a captain in the militia, and was adjutant of Colonel Benjamin Foster's Regiment at Machias in service in 1777; and was recognized as an efficient and patriotic man.

Deborah, a daughter of Jonas (senior), married Joseph Wheelock of Nova Scotia, Nov. 5, 1769, and lived in that province, where she has many descendants.

Isaac, sixth child of Jonas, was born Aug. 9, 1750. He married Martha Barth of Granville, N. S., where he had lived for some time. He also took the side of the revolted colonies, and removed to Jonesboro, Me., of which he was an early settler. He died there, April —, 1832, where his wife had died about two years before. He had a large family and his descendants are very numerous. Levi, a grandson of his, born about 1804, was one of the early adventurers to the Pacific coast, for which place he left Machias in the brig *Agate*, Nov. 4, 1849. He lived many years in Washington territory, where he held many public offices, and returned to his early home in 1882. William H. Farnsworth, a great-great-grandson of Isaac, born Aug. 14, 1860, is an attorney-at-law, of the firm of Osborn & Farnsworth, practicing at Blair, Nebraska.

Calvin Farnsworth, another great-grandson of the same Isaac, born at Jonesport, Maine, October, 1845, enlisted when sixteen years old in the Sixteenth Maine Infantry, for the War of the Rebellion. He was afterwards transferred to the First Maine Heavy Artillery, as one of its non-commissioned officers. He was three times wounded in battle, once at Spottsylvania Court House, and twice at Petersburg, Virginia. He was afterwards discharged by special order of President Lincoln for the purpose of being commissioned as major of a new regiment, but as the war closed directly afterwards, the new regiment was never mustered into the service. He has served in the Grand Army of the Republic as Junior and Senior Vice Commander and as Department Commander; and he is now a clerk in the Register's Office of the Treasury Department of the United States.

Peter, eighth child of Jonas, was born Aug. 18, 1754. He married Margaret Marshall of Bath, Me., and died in 1803. He lived in Norridgewock, Me., where he went in 1780. Peter was a prominent citizen and held numerous offices. He was much interested in military affairs, and became a colonel in the militia. His son Jonas was one of the settlers of Pembroke, Me., where he went in 1815. Peter's son Drummond, born Nov. 3, 1789, married Charlotte Carter of Unity, Me., Nov. 10, 1816, who died Aug. 23, 1831; he married (2) Meroe Sylvester of Norridgewock, Me., March 4, 1833. She died Dec. 23, 1844, and he married (3) Julia A. Whittemore, of West Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 7, 1846. He died May 16, 1866. He was a lieutenant in the Thirty-Fourth United States Infantry in the war of 1812 against England. He was in the Senate of Maine, and afterwards Judge of Probate for Somerset County in that State, which office he resigned in 1840. Peter had also a son Cephas, born March 14, 1793, who married Eunice Brown in 1816. He went in 1849 with his son Benjamin Brown to California, but returned to end his days in Maine. Cephas had six children, and their descendants are very numerous.

The descendants of Jonas, the tenth child of Benjamin, are perhaps scattered more widely through the United States and the British provinces than those of any other one of the family.

11. DEBORAH, the eleventh and youngest child of Benjamin, was born —, 1715. She married Samuel Bowers, Jr., March 19, 1735. Bowers kept a tavern in Groton at the place known as the Champney House. She had six children. Dr. S. A. Green thus speaks of Mr. Bowers in his "Groton Historical Series," No. 8, p. 4.

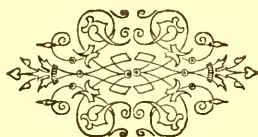
The Trowbridge Tavern cannot now be identified with certainty; but it is highly probable that it was the same as the Bowers Inn, mentioned in the next paragraph.

The earliest tavern in Groton of which there is any positive record or knowledge, was kept by Samuel Bowers, Jr., in the house lately and for a long time occupied by the Champney family. Mr. Bowers was born in Groton on Dec. 21, 1711, and, according to his tombstone, died on "the Sixteenth day of December Anno Domini 1768. Half a hour after three of the clock in ye Afternoon, and in the Fifty Eighth year of his age." He was first licensed in the year 1755, and was known in the neighborhood as "Land'urd Bowers,"—the innkeeper of that period being generally addressed by the title of landlord. I do not know who succeeded him in his useful and important functions.

It seems proper to remark that in the middle of the last century many of the most prominent citizens were licensed as retailers of spirits. Deacon Benjamin Bancroft, Deacon Isaac Farnsworth, Amos Lawrence, Ezra Farnsworth, Abraham Moors, Caleb Trowbridge, Jr., and others were licensed as retailers, and they were among the best citizens of the place. Popular ideas have changed since then.

JOSEPH FARNSWORTH.

Joseph, the fifth child of Matthias Farnsworth, was born at Lynn, Nov. 17, 1657, and died there Oct. 31, 1674, unmarried.



MARY [FARNSWORTH] THATCHER.

Mary, the second daughter and sixth child of Matthias, was born at Lynn, Oct. 11, 1660. She married Samuel Thatcher of Watertown, April 11, 1676. He was the son of Samuel and Hannah Thatcher, immigrants from England who had settled in Watertown. Samuel Thatcher, the elder, was admitted freeman May 18, 1642, was a deacon in the church, for several years a selectman of Watertown, and he represented that place in the Legislature in the years 1665, 1666, 1668 and 1669. His son, the husband of Mary Farnsworth, was born Oct. 20, 1648, admitted freeman April 18, 1690, was a lieutenant in the militia, held various town offices, and died Oct. 21, 1726. She died Aug. 17, 1725. They had children as follows :

1. MARY, born Aug. 1, 1681 ; died May, 1682.
2. SAMUEL, born April 8, 1683.
3. JOHN, born Jan. 22, 1686 ; died Feb. 29, 1734. He married Elizabeth Morse of Groton, Oct. 24, 1712, and lived in that place.
4. ANNA (Hannah), born April 30, 1688 ; died July 22, 1690.
5. MARY, born Sept. 17, 1690 ; married, July 8, 1713, Joseph Child.
6. HANNAH, born Nov. 10, 1692 ; died Nov. 3, 1741.
7. ABIGAIL, born June 6, 1694.
8. MERCY, born Jan. 2, 1698 ; died Oct. 14, 17—.
9. SARAH, born Nov. 30, 1699 ; died June 13, 1727.
10. EBENEZER, born March 17, 1704 ; married, January 27, 1732, Susanna Spring, and had ten children.

Some of Mary Thatcher's descendants have been eminent both in church and state. Her grandson Samuel Thatcher of Watertown was a colonel, representative in the Legislature, selectman and treasurer of the town, and one of the most prominent and active men in it during the Revolutionary War. He was father of Ebenezer [H. U. 1798], who married Lucy, daughter of General Henry Knox, was a prominent lawyer of Thomaston, Me., and father of the late Rear Admiral Henry Knox Thatcher.

Henry Knox Thatcher was born at Montpelier, the seat of his grandfather, Major General Henry Knox of Revolutionary fame

and first Secretary of War under Washington, in Thomaston, Me., May 26, 1806, a few months before the decease of his grandfather, which occurred Oct. 25, 1806. July 1, 1822, he was admitted a cadet in the military academy at West Point. His health failing, he was allowed to exchange his cadetship for a midshipman's appointment in the United States navy. The appointment bore date March 4, 1823. He served for some time under Commodore David Porter, afterwards under Commodore Isaac Hull; and in 1829 he was promoted to be a passed midshipman. His great natural abilities showed themselves in admirable service, and he received deserved promotion. Soon after the opening of the War of the Rebellion he was promoted to be Commodore on the active list and placed in command of the screw corvette *Colorado*, and in that ship commanded the first division of Porter's fleet in December, 1864, and January, 1865, during the attacks upon and final capture of Fort Fisher and its dependencies. Rear Admiral Porter said of him, in his report of this action to the Secretary of the Navy :

First and foremost in the list of commodores is Commodore H. K. Thatcher. . . . I believe Commodore Thatcher would have fought his ship until she went to the bottom, and went into the fight with the full determination to conquer or die. There is no reward too great for this gallant officer; he has shown the kind of ability naval leaders should possess, a love of fighting and an invincible courage.

He was then as a reward appointed Rear Admiral and assumed command of the West Gulf squadron as successor to Vice Admiral Farragut, who after fighting the battle of Mobile Harbor had gone north on account of ill health. He was in command of the fleet at the final taking of Mobile, April 15, 1865, and then he closed his brilliant war record by taking possession of the forts at Galveston, at the termination of the war. After the restoration of peace he served as commander of the squadron in the Pacific Ocean. On the 26th May, 1868, having been 45 years in the naval service, he was placed on the retired list. He died April 5, 1880, aged 73 years, 10 months and 10 days. He had been attached to the navy fifty-seven years; twenty-one years and eight months of this time had been spent at sea. A braver or a better sailor never lived, and it is enough to say of him that he maintained in his own person the standard of manliness set by his grandfather, General Knox.

SARAH [FARNSWORTH] STONE.

According to tradition and the probabilities, the seventh child of Matthias Farnsworth was Sarah, who married Simon Stone, of Watertown, whose father had taken land at Groton adjoining to that of Matthias Farnsworth. He was eldest son of Simon and Mary [Whipple] Stone of Watertown, and a much respected citizen. He was born Sept. 8, 1656, and died Dec. 19, 1741, "aged 85 years, 3 months and 11 days." Her gravestone gives her death as Sept. 16, 1731, "in the 68th year of her age," so that she was born about 1664, and probably at Groton, before the town records were kept with any completeness. Simon Stone was deacon in the church, and held several town offices. There was a Simon Stone who held land at Groton in 1670, the same land on which Deacon Simon subsequently lived; but as in 1670 Deacon Simon was only fourteen years old, it is not likely that he was the Simon named in the records; but it is reasonable to suppose that the land belonged to his father, whose name was Simon, who is not understood ever to have been a resident of the town, but who probably lived at Watertown. The records do not speak of either of the lots owned by Simon Stone in 1670 as a "house lot." Probably, therefore, Simon senior took the land for his son Simon, and perhaps in part for his younger son John, as both of them came, when they grew up, to occupy parts of it.

John Stone, it will be remembered, married the widow of Matthias Farnsworth, Jr.; but he did so Dec. 16, 1698, several years after Deacon Simon had married the daughter of Matthias senior. Simon and John Stone both lived in the immediate neighborhood of Matthias, and after his death, in view of the danger from Indian invasions, when garrisons were formed in the town, March 17, 1692, for common defense, one of them consisted of the following persons, really one family. They were, as entered in the records: "John Farnsworth, Matthias Farnsworth [Jr.], Benjamin Farnsworth, Samuel Farnsworth, Widow Farnsworth, Simon Stone, John Stone, Nicholas Hutchins and

their families : 10 men." John Farnsworth, who was an ensign in the militia, was probably in command. "Widow Farnsworth," the widow of Matthias [senior], is named as a householder, and had with her probably her son Jonathan. Nicholas Hutchins, whose wife was sister to the widow, also had a son John with him, that probably married about that time the youngest daughter of Matthias ; and thus are made out "ten men," if we count the widow as one.

Deacon Simon Stone and Sarah Farnsworth had many children, but the exact number cannot be ascertained. Neither is the time of their marriage on record ; but as he was born in 1656, and she about 1664, it is not likely that they were married much, if any, before 1683 or 1684. It is improbable, therefore, that John Stone of Groton was a son of his. John married the widow of Matthias Farnsworth, Jr., Dec. 16, 1698, so that the assumption of Bond, in his History of Watertown, that he was a son of Deacon Simon is not tenable. Very likely the one whom Butler calls Simon Stone, Jr., was his son. The list of their children will then be as follows :

1. SARAH, born — (?) ; married Stephen Farr of Stow, Sept. 28, 1708.
2. SIMON, (?) born — ; married Sarah — ; lived at Groton ; had eight children, of whom the oldest was born Sept. 10, 1714.
3. ABIGAIL, born —, 1691 ; married Nathaniel Holden, Dec. 11, 1718 ; had seven children, and died Sept. 29, 1757, "in the 66th year of her age."
4. SUSANNAH, born Oct. 23, 1694.
5. ISAAC, born May 4, 1697 ; died Sept. 30, 1723.
6. HANNAH, born about 1698 ; died Sept. 27, 1723.
7. LYDIA, born about 1707 ; died Sept. 30, 1723.
8. JOSEPH, born — 1702 ; married Mary Prescott, May 9, 1728 ; had twelve children, and died Sept. 10, 1777.
9. BENJAMIN, born Aug. 12, 1706 ; married Emma, daughter of James and Abigail [Prescott] Parker, May 13, 1736, and died Sept. 23, 1758.

SAMUEL FARNSWORTH.

The eighth child of Matthias was Samuel, born at Groton, Oct. 8, 1669. He married, Dec. 12, 1706, Mary [Whitcomb] Willard, daughter of Josiah Whitcomb of Lancaster, and widow of Simon Willard, Jr., son of Major Simon Willard of the Nonacotus farm. Samuel's mother lived with him after her husband's death through all the latter part of her life, and she left him by her will, as we have seen, the most of her property, including her "great Bible." He subsequently moved to the "Turkey Hills," now the town of Lunenburg, of which he was an early settler. The date of his death is unknown; but, as his will is dated June 9, 1727, and was proved Aug. 21, 1727, he must have died between those dates, aged 57 years. He was admitted to the church in Groton July 27, 1718. He appears to have been the main stay and reliance of his mother during the twenty-eight years that she lived after the death of her husband. He had six children as follows:

1. MARY CREW, born at Kingston, Sept. 13, 1707; married Jonathan Page of Turkey Hills (Lunenburg), Nov. 8, 1727.

2. SAMUEL [Jr.], born at Groton, June 29, 1709. He was never married. In 1740 he, with his two younger brothers, David and Stephen, together with some others mostly from Groton and its vicinity, having had a grant of land at the place since called Charlestown in New Hampshire, organized a settlement there; and these sons of Samuel Senior were among the first to do so. The place was considered by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be within its jurisdiction, and it was granted to them as one of a series, this being called "No. 4," which singular name has adhered to it ever since, although the place was soon legally named Charlestown. Many people still speak of it as "Charlestown No. 4." The first actual settlement of the place, it is said, was made by these three brothers in 1740, their associates, however, following in a short time.* Soon after

* Saunderson's History of Charlestown: 14, 335.

moving there the dividing line between the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Colonies was somewhat unsatisfactorily determined as it exists at the present day, and by this settlement of boundaries Charlestown came within the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire Colony. This transfer of jurisdiction and allegiance caused the original Charlestown grantees much trouble, for the New Hampshire Colony, under the lead of Governor Benning Wentworth, refused to recognize the validity of the Massachusetts grants. But after considerable delay and long negotiation the matter was compromised by the issuance of a new grant partially satisfying the claims of the original grantees. The claims of the three Farnsworths were substantially recognized. Samuel Farnsworth was the recognized leader of the party. He was a man of energy, force, judgment and probity. One of the earliest things necessary to do was to build a fort, and the collection and expenditure of the means for the purpose was entrusted to him, and he became treasurer of the organization. In an attack made by the Indians upon the settlement, May 4, 1746, he was accidentally shot and killed by some one in his own party.*

3. DAVID, born at Groton, Aug. 4, 1711; married Hannah Hastings of Lunenburg, Aug. 15, 1735. He was, as has been stated, one of the original settlers of Charlestown, N. H., in 1740. He shared with the rest of the settlers of that place in the hazards of the Indian raids that seem to have been incidental to all the settlements on the frontier. David was going to mill on horseback, April 20, 1757, when he was waylaid and attacked by Indians. Seeing that there was no chance for escape, he dismounted, twisted the stirrups over the horse's back and started him for home. The Indians tried to stop the horse, but without success. The animal reached home, by which means the family were notified of the attack. David himself was taken and carried to Canada, from whence some years later he was redeemed and returned home.†

A short time after his return he removed with his family to Hollis, N. H., where he was living at the time of the Revolutionary War. Still later in life, he removed again, at that time under

* Crosby's *Annals of Charlestown*.

† Saunderson's *History of Charlestown*, pp. 14 and 335.

safer auspices, into the northern part of Vermont. David had six children, two sons and four daughters. One of his daughters, Hannah, born in 1736, married John Tarbell of Groton in 1758, and had nine children, one of whom, Colonel Abel Tarbell, was a distinguished citizen of that town, and lived in the village of Squannacook. She died Aug. 6, 1829. Another daughter, Relief, married Reuben Tucker, of Townsend, Mass., June 4, 1771, and moved with her husband to Nova Scotia with Jonas and Amos Farnsworth, as has been stated, about 1762 or 1763, and lived at Digby in that province. Many of her descendants are now resident there. The late Gilbert Ruggles Tucker, a well-known merchant of Boston, born Jan. 9, 1807, was her grandson.

David's fifth child, Samuel, born at Charlestown, N. H., about 1750, was a drummer at the battle of Bunker Hill, and was a pensioner for services in the Revolutionary War. He was residing at that time with his father at Hollis, N. H. He moved to and lived some time at Stoddard, N. H.; and afterwards moved with his family to Eaton, then in Lower Canada. He married Anna Wassen. His eldest son, John, born May 15, 1783, at Stoddard, N. H., married Sally Patten of Surry, Hancock County, Maine, in 1809. She was daughter of Colonel James Patten of Surry. He moved with his father to Eaton, L. C., in 1812; and afterwards he moved to Green Oak, Mich., in 1834, where he died in 1844. His son John Franklin, born at Eaton, March 27, 1820, married Mary A. Clark, Oct. 12, 1846. He early moved to Michigan, and engaged with his father in surveying. He acquired an academic education, such as was accessible in that new country at that time, studied law and was admitted to the bar in Illinois. He settled for the practice of his profession at St. Charles, Ill., in 1842, and removed from that place to Chicago in 1852. Such were the generally recognized abilities which he displayed in his profession that in 1856 he was elected to represent the district in which he lived in the Congress of the United States. That district then embraced Chicago on Lake Michigan and Rock Island on the Mississippi River, with the intervening counties. He was subsequently elected to the same office in 1856, and again in 1858.

On the breaking out of the Rebellion John F. Farnsworth raised the Eighth Regiment of Illinois Cavalry, was appointed its colonel, and took it to the army of the Potomac in October

1861. He commanded his regiment as its colonel until Nov. 29, 1862, when he was promoted to be a brigadier-general while in the field. During his service he participated in the advance on Bull Run and the Rappahannock in March, 1862, and in the battles of the Peninsula campaign in the succeeding summer. His regiment was in the advance from Williamsburg to Mechanicsville under command of General Stoneman, who was then chief of cavalry for the army, and who in making up his brigade for the advance selected Colonel Farnsworth's regiment, the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, as one of this brigade, and placed it upon the right. In the change of base from the Chickahominy to James River, Colonel Farnsworth was assigned with his regiment to conduct a very large train of the most valuable property of the army to the "James," which he did safely by a night march, arriving near the river at Haxall's Landing at about 3 o'clock on the morning of June 30, 1862, and from thence sent the train the following day to Harrison's Landing.

When the army of the Potomac returned to Washington about the last of August of that year, at the time of the second battle of Bull Run, and moved up into Maryland, as the Confederates were moving towards Harper's Ferry, Colonel Farnsworth's regiment formed part of the advance column of our army under General Pleasonton, who commanded the cavalry division. He was then put in command of a brigade consisting of his own regiment and the Third Indiana Cavalry; and on the 7th September, 1862, he led the advance from Darnstown, Md., through Poolesville, where he had a lively skirmish with the enemy, driving them out of the town and occupying it for the night. The next day he pushed on to Barnesville, capturing *en route* some twenty-five or thirty prisoners, and a battle flag of the Eighth Virginia Cavalry. At Barnesville another engagement ensued, but the enemy was quickly driven from the place.

On the 11th September Colonel Farnsworth captured Sugar Loaf mountain from the enemy, which had been used by them as a signal station. From there, marching through Frederick, Md., he had several lively encounters between that city and South Mountain, where the enemy was in force, and the memorable battle of the 14th of September was fought. On the 15th, early in the morning, Colonel Farnsworth was ordered to advance, which he did, galloping over the mountain with only eight com-

panies of his regiment, and charging impetuously a brigade of rebel cavalry in and just outside the village of Boonesboro. Here, considering the numbers engaged, was one of the severest cavalry encounters of the war, embracing a succession of charges and counter charges, and hand-to-hand conflicts. The enemy was completely vanquished, their commander, unhorsed, escaped through a cornfield, four pieces of artillery and over two hundred prisoners were taken, and many were killed and wounded, with a loss to Farnsworth's command of two prisoners, six or eight wounded, and none killed. The battle of Antietam followed, and the enemy was driven across the Potomac in full retreat. Later in the fall, upon our army crossing the Potomac, the cavalry had active duty to perform, and Colonel Farnsworth was engaged in many sharp encounters with the enemy, notably at Purcelville, Philamont, Upperville, Barber's Cross-roads, Chester Gap, Amesville and Little Washington; reaching Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 22, where that unfortunate battle was fought which closed the campaign for that year. It was at the close of this movement, Nov. 29, 1862, while still in the field, and in recognition of his services, that he was raised to the rank of brigadier-general.

General Farnsworth had had no military education nor military experience until he raised his first regiment as before stated. But good judgment and a keen perception of the advantages of any position in which he was placed served him remarkably well in place of military training. About the close of the campaign just outlined he received severe injuries that disabled him from further service in the field, and in the following year, 1863, he resigned his commission, and devoted himself to the service of the country in ways in which he could be more efficient. In the fall of 1862 he was again elected to Congress, and entered that body in December, 1863, serving continuously thereafter for ten years.

In the winter of 1863 he obtained orders from the War Department and raised another regiment for service in the field, the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, which enabled him to secure the promotion of many of the officers and men who had served under him in the Eighth Cavalry; and his old regiment eventually produced two brigadier-generals, five brigadier-generals by brevet, two colonels of other regiments, three of his officers were

appointed majors of cavalry in the regular army, and several were appointed captains and lieutenants in other regiments.

The transfer of General Farnsworth from the field to Congress was beneficial to the country, as his injuries were such that he could no longer be useful in the field. His support of the national cause in the House of Representatives and elsewhere was very able and effective and was highly appreciated. He was a fine and forcible speaker, a ready debater, a dangerous foe to attack, and a valuable advocate and friend. After leaving Congress he returned to the practice of his profession of the law.

His nephew, General Elon John, son of his brother, James Patten Farnsworth, presents a most interesting and picturesque gleam of chivalry and heroism worthy of any age. He was born at Green Oak, Mich., July 30, 1837. In 1858, while a student in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he left his studies to participate in the expedition then fitting out by the United States army against the Mormons in Utah, and was assigned as forage master to the Quartermaster's Department. He was one of the police of the army at the Mountain Meadow massacre. He returned home in 1861, and immediately joined the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, then being organized by his uncle, Colonel John F. Farnsworth, and was appointed assistant-quartermaster. He was soon after elected captain of Company K in that regiment, and served with it in the Peninsula campaign in Virginia. He was in all the prominent places in which his regiment served, and was reported in all cases as rendering excellent service. Early in 1863 he was acting lieutenant-colonel and chief quartermaster of the Fourth Army Corps. Throughout the time he served he was under the chief command of General Pleasanton, who repeatedly commended him in his reports for gallant and meritorious services.

In May, 1863, he was appointed an aide on the staff of General Pleasanton, and the performance of his duties in that position was such as to earn the esteem of his commander and the admiration of his fellow officers. June 29, 1863, on the eve of the battle of Gettysburg, he was commissioned brigadier-general of cavalry. He was on detached service at the time, and the commission never reached him, but was carried among General Pleasanton's headquarters papers until after the battle, and his

own death. He was, however, immediately assigned to the command of a brigade in Kilpatrick's cavalry division, consisting of the First Vermont, First West Virginia, Fifth New York and Eighteenth Pennsylvania Regiments. A battle was coming on and it was impossible to procure the uniform of his new rank. Pleasanton, however, generously placed his own wardrobe at his service, and on the field of Gettysburg General Farnsworth wore one of Pleasanton's blue coats decorated with a single star.

Late on the third day of the battle, July 3, 1863, after Pickett's charge had been repulsed, Farnsworth's brigade occupied a position on a wooded hill to the left of Round Top. Immediately in front were the enemy's skirmish line and the First Texas Regiment, posted behind a railed fence that had been made impassable by cavalry. The First West Virginia Regiment was ordered to charge the Texas troops, with a battalion of the First Vermont as skirmishers. It charged in gallant style only to receive a volley from the Texas troops, secure behind the staked and withe-bound fence. Recoiling from the deadly fire, the regiment rallied and again dashed forward against that impregnable fence, the troopers madly but vainly hewing at the stakes with their sabres, and a second time it was hurled back by a pitiless storm of bullets, and returned to its position with ranks greatly thinned.

It was then that Kilpatrick, angered by the failure to dislodge the Texas regiment, ordered the charge that has been the subject of so much discussion and very general, although not universal, condemnation. The ground to be traversed was the worst possible for cavalry movements. The objective point was the rear of Law's Confederate brigade, intrenched upon the sloping sides of Round Top. The intervening ground was hilly and uneven—here covered with massive boulders demoralizing to cavalry, there covered with timber even more disastrous to effective cavalry movements, while stone walls, rail fences and the picturesque worm fences of that section greatly enhanced the difficulties to be encountered. At various points of advantage were posted Confederate regiments, infantry and artillery. It was, in fact, a charge by a shattered remnant of a brigade—a mere handful of men—over ground that might well have been deemed impracticable, into the midst of an army of well-posted infantry. It has been called by a Confederate witness “a mad

charge led by a mad leader." However just the application to the fatal charge, it certainly is not applicable to the leader who obeyed orders with a heroism never surpassed.

Astonished at an order that seemed to have little purpose other than the slaughter of his brave soldiers, Farnsworth, whose bravery no one could call in question, but who had the true soldier's regard for his men, asked Kilpatrick if he really meant that he should throw his handful of men over the broken ground before them against a brigade of infantry, remarking tenderly, "These are too good men to kill." The impetuous Kilpatrick hotly retorted: "Do you refuse? If you are afraid to lead your men, I will lead them myself." Rising in his saddle, his face radiant with conscious strength and courage and burning with indignation, Farnsworth passionately yet calmly replied: "Take that back! I ask no man to lead my men forward." There was a moment's silence, and then Kilpatrick, with a magnanimity that was manly and creditable, acknowledged his error, and the two commanders engaged in a conversation that was not heard by others.

General Farnsworth soon rode to the head of the Third Battalion, consisting of about 200 troopers, the remnant of the First Vermont, and ordered the charge. With drawn sabres, they rode through the Confederate skirmish line, into the fields beyond, over the fences, and made as bold a dash for Lee's army as if they had been supported by the entire Union forces. While the First Battalion, in advance, was extricating itself from the Fourth Alabama, whose volley it received within a few paces, and which was the first intimation of the presence of the Confederates at that point, General Farnsworth, with the Third Battalion, circled to the right towards the enemy's line of battle, riding in as grand form as if on dress parade. Skirting a low hill to the rear of Law's* Confederate brigade, this few score of Vermont cavalymen led by General Farnsworth literally entered the "jaws of death." Charging along a stone wall between the hill and Law's brigade, over rocks and through timber, they were exposed to the close enfilading fire of several Confederate regiments on the right and of the Fourth Alabama on the left. They emerged from this slaughter pen only to receive the close

* General Law of the Confederate army tells the story of this charge, from his point of view, in the *Century Magazine* for December, 1886.

fire of a battery, and here the remnant of the devoted band broke into three parties. General Farnsworth, still unscathed, rode some distance farther, until his horse fell under him. A trooper dismounted, Farnsworth sprang into the saddle, wheeled and, followed by a few troopers—Confederate reports say there were not more than ten with him when he fell—at full gallop charged back again into that terrible storm of death-dealing missiles. Again he charged along that stone wall, with three regiments of infantry and a battery of artillery pounding his little band with leaden hail at close range, and sharpshooters decimating the pitiful remnant from the shelter of the rocks on the hill rising above his head. It is not strange that the Confederates looked upon him as the mad leader of madmen.

Incredible as it seems, General Farnsworth, with Captain Cushman and about ten of the Vermont troopers, apparently impervious to the storm of bullets, on the return charge penetrated in safety very nearly to the point where they first entered between the hill and the stone wall in the rear of the Confederate column. A few more strides in that mad gallop and the remaining heroes of this charge would have been out of reach of rebel bullets, and the intrepid commander would have lived to attain greater rank and distinction but for one last rash act—the culmination of courageous consecration.

On the extreme right of the enemy's line of battle was the Fifteenth Alabama. Dashing along the stone wall in their rear, General Farnsworth saw approaching a small detachment of the First Battalion of his brigade, from which he had long been separated. Raising his sabre as a signal to follow, he cleared the stone wall and charged the Fifteenth Alabama with the sublime indifference of a commander with victorious thousands at his back. Here he fell, and his riderless horse tore through the enemy's lines. He fell with sabre raised as if still threatening the foe he could no longer face, and with five mortal wounds in his body.*

* The Confederate reports of Farnsworth's charge contain a curious error. They relate that he wore a linen coat, and that when he fell from his horse he fought with his revolver and finally blew out his brains rather than surrender. In these reports General Farnsworth is confounded with Captain Cushman, who did wear a linen coat that made him a conspicuous figure in the charge, and who fell by Farnsworth's side and fought with his revolver until he became insensible. Farnsworth's five mortal wounds showed that he died in the saddle. There was no wound in the head or face.

Thus perished one of the finest specimens of the volunteer soldier that the civil war produced. Without previous military experience of consequence, he was a born trooper and with a genius for actual warfare that promised a glorious career. The order to the execution of which he gave his life has been commended by some, condemned by more, but to the impartial historian it must appear as foolish in its conception, criminal in its compulsion, and uselessly fatal in its execution. In defense of this order it is urged that the diversion in the enemy's rear exposed the Confederate front to an infantry attack that must have proved resistless. This is doubtless true, but its fatal weakness lies in the utter inability of the strong Union force facing Law's brigade to take advantage of a movement that, so far as is known, they knew nothing about. By the time the infantry commanders arrived at a just conception of the cause of the turmoil in the Confederate rear, the charge and its results were simply matters of record. It is undeniable that this charge offered glorious opportunities that were not improved, and simply because it was the impetuous order of an impetuous man, instead of a well-timed movement as part of a concerted plan. In its conception this charge recalls that of the Six Hundred at Balaclava, immortalized by Tennyson, but there the comparison ends. Armies witnessed the onslaught of the Light Brigade ; the applause of thousands of friends, the astonished admiration of brave foes, spurred on the Six Hundred to greater endeavor ; but the rash command their leader had received was obeyed with no more heroism, fidelity and devotion than was that which sent the brave Farnsworth to his death.

“ Forward, the Light Brigade !”

Was there a man dismayed ?

Not though the soldier knew

Some one had blundered ;

Theirs not to make reply,

Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die,

Into the valley of Death

Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,

Cannon to left of them,

Cannon behind them

Volleyed and thundered ;

Stormed at with shot and shell,
 While horse and hero fell,
 They that had fought so well,
 Came through the jaws of Death,
 Back from the mouth of Hell,
 All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade ?
 O, the wild charge they made !
 All the world wondered.
 Honor the charge they made !
 Honor the light brigade,
 Noble six hundred.

General Elon John Farnsworth was never married, and so left no children ; but his kinsmen owe a duty to their country, as well as to him, to perpetuate his memory. Future ages are not likely to see any one more devoted to duty or more faithful in its execution. A few days after General Pleasanton learned of General Farnsworth's death, he wrote as follows to Elon's uncle, General John F. Farnsworth :

My Dear General : In looking over my Gettysburg report, it has occurred to me that you should know what I said and what I thought of your late nephew ; and as it will not probably see daylight for a long time, I send you the following quotation from that report :

It was in one of these brilliant engagements that the gallant Farnsworth fell heroically leading a charge of his brigade against the rebel infantry. Gifted in a high degree with a quick perception and a correct judgment, remarkable for his daring and coolness, his comprehensive grasp of the situation on the field of battle and the rapidity of his actions, had already distinguished General Farnsworth among his comrades in arms. In his death was closed a career that must have won the highest honors of his profession.

These were no empty words. He realized more than they expressed. Nature made him a general, and he was just entering the proper field for an exhibition of his high qualities when he was killed. Of our personal relations I will not speak ; there are certain things too sacred to be written of those we love.

Yours as ever,

PLEASANTON.

To General J. F. Farnsworth.

4. ABIGAIL, born —, 1713.

5. STEPHEN, born at Lunenburg in 1715, was Samuel's fifth child. He married Eunice Hastings of Lunenburg, sister to his brother David's wife, Dec. 22, 1741. Although Stephen was one of the party that made the first settlement at Charlestown, N. H., yet he does not appear to have entirely abandoned Lunen-

burg as his home ; for he became a member of the church there June 12, 1748, and he was one of the original members of the church in Charlestown. He afterwards moved to Woodstock, Vt., where he died Sept. 6, 1771. His wife died there June 9, 1811, aged 88 years.

We have seen that after the settlement of Charlestown there was continual necessity to guard against the attacks of Indians for many years. In 1746, a short time before his brother Samuel's death, Stephen was engaged with a scouting party in locating the enemy, and appears to have fallen into their hands at Northfield, Vt.* But he seems to have escaped, or been discharged in some way, as he appeared at home soon afterwards. He was also taken prisoner by them again Aug. 29, 1754, when he was carried to Canada, from whence he was afterwards returned, after having been kept a prisoner for seventeen months. Stephen, with his brother David and his cousin James, was a grantee in the Benning Wentworth grant, made to some of the settlers at Charlestown in settlement of claims under the Massachusetts grant, which Governor Wentworth and his company had repudiated.

Stephen Farnsworth had a son Oliver who became a printer, probably the first of the family to learn that art. Oliver had a son Havilah, born May 31, 1769, and a son Oliver, Jr., born Dec. 10, 1775, both of whom learned their father's trade, and June 14, 1797, they commenced the publication of a newspaper at Suffield, Conn., called *The Impartial Herald*. They continued it for one year, when they sold out to other parties, and removed to Newport, R. I., where they opened a printing office, and the "schedules" of the General Assembly of that State for the year 1798 bear the imprint of "H. & O. Farnsworth." In the year 1799 Oliver Farnsworth, Jr., commenced the publication of the *Rhode Island Republican*, and continued it about two years in the interest of the Jeffersonian party, and his brother, Havilah, appears to have given up the printing business and turned his attention to medicine, which he practiced at Newport. Oliver was attacked very violently for the policy pursued in the publication of the *Rhode Island Republican* by William Cobbett in the Porcupine Papers, in which Cobbett

* Historic Genealogical Register, vol. 9, p. 163-4.

availed himself of some of his most violent abuse. Oliver also published a life of Washington, under the following title: "A Memory of Washington; Comprising a Sketch of His Life and Character and the National Testimonials of Respect. Also a Collection of Eulogies and Orations, with a Copious Appendix. Newport, R. I.: Printed by Oliver Farnsworth, 1800." It was the first attempt at a collection of the most important of Washington's papers, as well as an account of his life, that was made after his death. It is a creditable performance when the time is considered, and the author's facilities for procuring information.

After leaving Newport Oliver Farnsworth went to Cincinnati, then the "far west," on the verge of the wilderness. There he opened the first printing office, and published the first newspaper in that region. In his old age he returned to Newport, R. I., and died there Sept. 23, 1859. His daughter Eliza Wheeler married Nathan Guilford of Cincinnati, and was mother to Nathan Guilford, the eminent civil engineer, and to the wife of Dan Stone, some time member of Congress, and an intimate friend of Lincoln.

Elon Farnsworth, another grandson of Stephen, a cousin of the last-named Oliver, was born Feb. 2, 1799. Elon Farnsworth was a farmer's boy, and passed his early years on his father's farm in Woodstock, Vt., in the occupations usual to farmers' boys. But he early developed studious habits and acquired a taste for books that made him devour all that fell in his way. He dipped into the classics, and with very little assistance mastered the intricacies of classic lore, the love of which, and a fondness for the great writers of old, remained with him as a solace and a comfort all through his busy life. He went to Detroit in 1822, being then 23 years old, and began the study of law with the law firm of Whitney & Sibley, then among the most prominent practitioners at the Michigan bar. Michigan was then a territory, and Sibley was soon appointed a territorial judge, and the young man continued his studies with Mr. Whitney, and in due time was admitted to the bar at Detroit. His studious habits, clear head and retentive memory commended him so strongly to his instructor that young Farnsworth was retained in the business; and as Mr. Whitney died not long after, the young lawyer succeeded to the business of his in-

structors. This he managed with so much skill and judgment and with such success that his fame rose rapidly, his professional opinions were sought in all directions, and at an unusually early age he was recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the territory, and was generally conceded to stand at the head of the bar. The *Detroit Free Press* said of him :

He had come to be looked upon as almost infallible in legal opinions. He reached conclusions in the most complicated questions by a process which those who knew him only superficially were wont to call intuition ; but the fact is, he was an indomitable worker, and he never gave an opinion involving any difficult legal question until he had first exhausted all available sources of knowledge concerning the matter in issue. His extraordinary memory here stood him in good stead, and his methodical habit of thought, which had been engrafted upon him in early life, enabled him to draw upon his great resources of learning in such a manner as to accomplish a prodigious amount of work in a little time.

May 7, 1830, he married Hannah Blake, of Keene, N. H., and took her to Detroit, where she became a beneficent influence of most persuasive force in that new and rapidly growing community. Her great strength of character, developed by thorough training, united to exalted tastes, refinement and culture, made her a recognized pattern and guide for the new community. During the period of her residence at Detroit she endeared herself to the people as the hospitable matron of the house of a man in whom hospitality was a marked characteristic. She was also a leader in the various charities of the new metropolis. Her excellent judgment, her broad and catholic views, and her effective management gave her a social power in the community that was recognized by all.

Elon Farnsworth's first official position was as a member of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, to which he was elected in 1834. Soon after this election he formed a copartnership with Daniel Goodwin, an eminent lawyer, afterwards a judge, and the firm was engaged in the most extensive law practice then known in the Northwest. On the organization of the State Government in 1836 the judiciary of the State of Michigan was organized with a Chancery Court, and he was appointed the first Chancellor. In this important judicial office he served with conspicuous ability until he resigned on account of ill health in 1843. As Chancellor of the State of Michigan it became necessary for him to adapt the rules and principles of Chancery practice, as they had grown up in England, in the

older states, and in the United States' courts, to the wants and conditions of a new community; and he did it with such consummate skill and judgment that no one of his decisions was ever reversed in the court of last resort, though it was several times attempted by very able men. His opinions are published in Harrington's Chancery Reports, and they have led in the development of the law in the State of Michigan.

After his resignation of the office of Chancellor, and as soon as his health permitted he was appointed Attorney-General of the State, which office he held for two years. In 1839 he was the Democratic nominee for Governor of Michigan. Some idea of the high esteem in which he was held among his fellow citizens may be gained from the fact that even the opposition journals of that time paid him the highest tributes within the scope of language. Partisanship, nevertheless, was rampant then as in later campaigns, and though he made a gallant fight he lost the election by a small majority.

Chancellor Farnsworth was, by virtue of his office as Chancellor, a Regent of the University of Michigan during his entire term of service. In 1846 he became Regent by appointment until 1850, and by reappointment until 1852, when he was chosen Regent by popular election, and he retained the office until 1858. He thus held the office of Regent of the University continuously from 1836 to 1858, except the interval from 1843 to 1846, his term of actual service extending over nineteen years. He filled that important position well and faithfully. His learning and high character dignified the office; and it was through his influence that Dr. Tappan was called to the presidency of the University, and by which it was advanced on a path of progress that has made it the pride of the State, and caused it to be respected throughout the educated world for its promotion of knowledge. Chancellor Farnsworth was himself a lover of advanced education, applying all his leisure to study, and, in marked contrast to the world at large, continued and to the last extended his knowledge of the Latin and Greek authors that had been the tasks of his early school life. The Latin poets were his companions all his life.

In 1846, when the Michigan Central Railroad Company was organized, Chancellor Farnsworth was chosen director, resident at Detroit, with a salary,—he was the only director who was paid

a salary,—which office he held for about twenty years. In 1849 he was chosen president of the Detroit Savings Bank, and held the office until his death. He gave daily personal attention to its affairs all that time, except during short periods of absence from the State, until within a few months of his death, when the state of his health put an end to his active services. In 1855 the Chancellor was sent to Europe in the interest of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal Company for the purpose of negotiating the sale of lands and bonds; but the financial condition of Europe in consequence of the Crimean War was such that he was only partially successful.

He was all his life a Democrat in politics; but his service in early life as a member of the Territorial Legislature, and his candidacy for the office of Governor in 1839, were his only occasions of active participation in political life. His clear head and sound judgment were, however, of great use in the guidance of his party upon all occasions.

He died March 24, 1877, and his wife survived him about two years, dying in —, 1879. They had two children who lived to maturity. One, Mary Louise, born Dec. 15, 1832, married General Orlando B. Willcox, of the United States army; the other, Carolyn Frances, born Aug. 10, 1834, married Jared Francis Harrison, an eminent lawyer of New York. Elon Farnsworth Willcox, a grandson of the Chancellor, son of General Orlando B. Willcox, is a graduate of West Point and a First Lieutenant in the Sixth Regiment of Cavalry in the United States army.

The following very just tribute to Chancellor Farnsworth is from the *Detroit Free Press*:

Personally Mr. Farnsworth was universally esteemed. By his own immediate circle of friends he was well beloved, and he will be as affectionately remembered as it is given any man to be. His manners were polished and courtly, and he invariably treated everybody with studied consideration. Politeness, real, genuine politeness, which springs from an honest regard for the rights of others, was a rule of his life; and his *suaviter in modo* had for a generation been proverbial. He was neat almost to fastidiousness, always paying scrupulous care to his dress. This did not grow out of any vanity, for there was none of that element in his nature. It was the result of a conscientious belief that neatness of person is a simple social duty. Reading was the passion of his life. He read everything. Philosophy, science, law, fiction, politics, poetry, were all alike to him in regard to the attention he bestowed upon them. Until he became unable longer to enjoy his beloved books, which was not until he

approached very near to the end of earth, they were his almost constant companions. It is related of him that when seventy-five years of age he relished his Virgil in the original text as keenly as when its beauties were first opened to his enquiring mind more than half a century before. He kept steadily up with current literature of every desirable grade, and could tell more about the men and women of letters than almost any other man of his time. Biography was at his tongue's end, and he delighted in analyses of the characters found in Scott, Thackeray and Dickens, with which it was long his wont to regale visitors and friends who manifested any interest in those authors. It was impossible to resist the genial atmosphere of his home presence. At his own fireside he laid by all worldly care, and gave himself up completely to the sweet and gracious atmosphere of home. His house was not to him a mere stopping place. In every room he had builded an altar, and he adorned his household gods with a feeling of mingled love and veneration. The worth of such an example is incomparable, and if Elon Farnsworth had left no other bequest, his exaltation of home would remain a lasting monument to his goodness and greatness of heart.

On the morning of the funeral the Detroit Bar Association took action respecting the late Chancellor's decease. Judge Daniel Goodwin presided, all the prominent members were present, and the following resolutions were adopted :

1. Elon Farnsworth was appointed Chancellor of the State of Michigan in July, 1836, and continued in office until March, 1842. This was the introduction of a new feature, the organization of a Court of Chancery as distinct from the law courts. On him devolved the creation of a Chancery system for this State. How he performed this duty is well shown by the words of Chancellor Kent in the fourth volume of his commentaries. Kent says : " The administration of justice in equity in Michigan under Chancellor Farnsworth was enlightened and correct, and does distinguished honor to the State."* No one of his decisions was ever reversed. His service as Attorney General for the State was performed with distinction.

2. Those who knew him here, to this recognition of his character as an equity judge will add their recollection of his character as a man. He had a rare union of firmness, courtesy and amiability. No one ever questioned his integrity or his fidelity. In all the relations of life, as a neighbor, friend and Christian, he could not be too highly spoken of. He was especially in esteem among the churchmen of Michigan as a life long member of St. Paul's Church.

3. Great trusts were reposed in him as a member of the community, aside from his legal and judicial offices ; as the resident director of the Michigan Central Railroad, as a Regent of the University. These important public enterprises received in their infancy from him the fostering care which well accounts for their subsequent success. Many private trusts in our mining companies, banks and asylums were bestowed upon him by reason of his prudence, wisdom and uprightness.

* 4 Kent's Commentaries, 163, note (d).

4. In these manifold relations of life, legal, judicial, private and public, he performed his duty with distinguished ability and fidelity, and goes down to the grave at the great age of seventy-eight with the esteem and veneration of the whole State. It is therefore by this bar

Resolved, That these resolutions be presented by the appropriate officers in the Federal and State Courts and leave be asked to have them spread upon the journals of such courts.

Resolved, That as a body we will attend the funeral of the distinguished dead from St. Paul's Church this afternoon, and that a copy of these resolutions be presented in the name of the bar to his family.

The most eminent members of the bar addressed the meeting and contributed from their recollections to a tribute to his memory. Among others, Hon. G. V. N. Lothrop, since Minister to Russia, spoke. Among other things he said: "While we all knew and respected him, we looked upon him while living more as we look upon Lord Hardwicke or Lord Mansfield. He was the type of a good man."

At a meeting of the Regents of the University of Michigan, held soon after his death, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan have heard with great regret of the death of the Hon. Elon Farnsworth of Detroit. He was one of the founders of this now great university; one of the very few men to whom this State owes more than it can appreciate or repay, from the wisdom and carefulness with which they laid broad and deep the foundations of the first successful State University of our country. He was an active and influential Regent, both *ex officio*, as Chancellor of the State, and for many years by appointment. His cool judgment, thorough culture and extensive reading were influential in the formative period of the institution. His monument is about us to-day.

Thus, and with such honors, passed away Elon Farnsworth, in the fullness of years, with the duties of life well and faithfully performed.

Stephen Farnsworth has a great-grandson, Jonathan Brewer Farnsworth, a member of the Vermont bar, born April 20, 1825, who practices his profession at Chester, Vt.

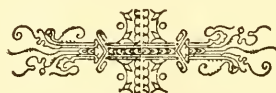
6. JOSHUA, born —, 1721, was the youngest son of Samuel Farnsworth. He went as a volunteer in the expedition sent by the Massachusetts Colony against Louisburg, and probably died in it. He left a will, dated March 3, 1746, which made his brother David his executor, and left legacies to "sister Mary Page," "sister Abigail," and to his brothers Samuel, David and Stephen.

ABIGAIL [FARNSWORTH] HUTCHINS.

Abigail was the ninth child of Matthias Farnsworth. She is named in her father's will, and that is the last certain information we have of her. She was born Jan. 17, 1671. It is supposed that she married her cousin, John Hutchins, son of Nicholas Hutchins whose wife Elizabeth Farr was sister to Abigail's mother. The family of Nicholas Hutchins lived near the homestead of Matthias Farnsworth, and he, and probably his son John, formed part of the Farnsworth garrison in 1692. The marriage, it is probable, took place during those disturbed times, when no records could be kept. At all events, John Hutchins' wife's name appears to be Abigail, and their first child was born Oct. 13, 1693. If this conclusion is correct, she had by her husband John Hutchins children as follows :

1. JOHN, born Oct. 13, 1693.
2. JOSHUA, born Nov. 5, 1696 ; married Mary Shed, July 12, 1722.
3. ABIGAIL, born Sept. 14, 1698.
4. ELIZABETH, born Sept. 6, 1700.
5. BENJAMIN, born Aug. 17, 1705.

They probably moved from the town early, as they disappear entirely from the town records, and I have no further trace of them.



JONATHAN FARNSWORTH.

Matthias Farnsworth's sixth son and tenth child was Jonathan, the youngest of his children that reached maturity. He was born in an exceedingly troubled time. Within three weeks of his birth, which took place June 1, 1675, King Philip's War broke out, in which the first battle was fought at Swanzev, in the County of Bristol, Mass., on the 20th of June, 1675, within nine months afterwards,—it was March 2, 1676,—the savages attacked Groton, burned nearly every dwelling house in the town, and all the inhabitants fled for shelter to Concord. There Jonathan spent two years of his infancy, the child of refugees, among strangers, where the family lived as it could. When those two terrible years were passed the family returned and rebuilt its homestead, taking the chance of further attacks from the Indians, who some years later again fell upon the exposed settlement. Thus all his early life was passed amid great perils and privations. His father died when he was but thirteen years old, and his later training was received from his mother, who appears to have guided him with intelligence and fidelity. He married Ruth, daughter of John and Ruth [Whitney] Shattuck, in 1698, and lived in the southerly part of Groton, as Groton then was, not far from Prescott's "Old Mill," perhaps on the land before described that was assigned to his father. That part of Groton was, on the incorporation of Harvard, made part of that town. He "owned the covenant" with the church in Groton, Sept. 21, 1707, and Ruth, his wife, united with it Oct. 9, 1715. He and his wife, with their son Jonathan, Jr., were dismissed from that church and "recommended to lie the foundation of the church in Harvard," Sept. 14, 1733. He led the quiet life of a farmer in that town all his mature years, and died there June 16, 1748. He had fifteen children, and their descendants are much more numerous than those of any other of the children of Matthias. They are as follows :

1. RUTH, born April 2, 1699.

2. JONATHAN, born March 17, 1701 ; married (1) Mary Burt, June 30, 1725, who died June 9, 1765, aged 64 ; (2) Hannah Farwell, May 5, 1767. He lived in Harvard ; united with the church in Groton, Nov. 1, 1721, and afterwards with his father and mother joined in founding the church in Harvard. He died Aug. 1, 1775, having had eight children. His eldest son, Jonathan (jr.), was a volunteer in the expedition against Louisburg, in 1745, and died June 26, 1759.

A great-grandson of Jonathan, Jr., Jacob by name, was several years a clerk in the navy yard in Charlestown, and afterwards engaged in mercantile business in Boston, New York, New Orleans, and for some time at Manchester, England, and died at Pensacola, Fla., April 14, 1837, aged 46. He was an able man and much respected.

Rufus, another great-grandson of the same Jonathan, Jr., born Dec. 15, 1791, married Lavinia Blanchard, July 7, 1821, lived in Albany, N. Y., and died about 1828. He had a son, Addison, born at Albany, July 9, 1825, who was a prominent soldier in the service of the country. He resided at Albany until the breaking out of the Mexican War. Then he entered the volunteer service called out by President Polk for prosecuting that war, as a second lieutenant, and by his bravery and meritorious services won rapid advancement. He was soon promoted to be captain, and at the close of the war held the rank of major. On disbanding the volunteers the Government offered him a commission in the regular army, but he declined it. Returning to civil life, he became a journalist and founded a paper called the *Albany Dutchman*. The paper was not successful, and he gave it up, whereupon he was appointed to an office in the Custom House in the city of New York, which he held until the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion. He at once engaged in the organization of a regiment of volunteers, which was made the Thirty-eighth New York Regiment of Infantry, and he was appointed its lieutenant-colonel. Holding that rank, he was in the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The colonel of the regiment, Colonel J. H. H. Ward, in his report of the action of his regiment in the battle, has this to say of him :

Where all have done so well, it would be invidious to make comparisons ; but in the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Farnsworth Thirty-eighth Regiment, I can-

not find words to express my admiration of his conduct. He was confined to a sick bed for seven days previous to the engagement, and arrived on the scene of action in an ambulance, and the fact of his rising from a sick bed and entering on the field with his regiment, and his courage and coolness during the day entitle him to the highest consideration. (1. Reb. Rec. 29.)

His ability and bravery were at once recognized, and he was promoted to be colonel of the Seventy-ninth Regiment of New York Volunteers. He was with his regiment in the second Bull Run battle, where he was wounded so severely that he was incapacitated for active service in the field; but after recovering partially from his wounds he was appointed colonel of the First Regiment of the Veteran Reserve Corps, with the rank of brevet brigadier-general; and this office he held until the close of the war. After that he was again employed in the Custom House at New York in a position which he held until his death, April 11, 1877, at Brooklyn, N. Y. He was buried at Albany with military honors befitting his rank and services.

Abel Farnsworth, a son of Jonathan, Jr., born May 17, 1734, lived at Harvard, and served some time in Colonel Job Cushing's regiment in the Revolutionary War.

Levi, a grandson of Jonathan, Jr., born Oct. 5, 1791, lived in Shirley, Mass., and served for some time in the army in the war of 1812. He was wounded in the arm. Samuel, another grandson of Jonathan, Jr., born April 16, 1783, a brother of the Levi just named, studied law and was admitted to the bar. He at once removed for the practice of his profession to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he died before he had an opportunity to display his capacity.

Parker Elisha, a great-grandson of Jonathan, Jr., born Jan. 1, 1818, received a good academic education and devoted himself to teaching. He was teacher at Bloomfield, N. J., two years, in a private school in New York one year, at Washington Institute two years, at the Mechanic's and Tradesman's School, N. Y., eleven years, at the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic School, one year, and at the Trinity School, New York city, seven years. He married Harriet W. Batcheller, of Boxboro', Mass., April 12, 1842.

Jonathan, brother to the last named Parker Elisha, had two sons, Edwin R. and Joseph Parker Farnsworth, who are engaged

in the clothing business at Fitchburg, Mass., under the firm name of Farnsworth Brothers.

3. EPHRAIM, born Jan. 2, 1703 ; married Deborah Beaman ; was a farmer, lived at Harvard and died there Feb. 18, 1737. He was a man of courage and energy, and was, with his brother Reuben, in Captain Lovell's famous expedition through New Hampshire into Maine, against the Indians. He had but one son, who died about 1756, unmarried.

4. REUBEN, born April 28, 1705 ; married Mary Holden of Watertown, April 7, 1730, where he lived some time. He was living in Harvard in 1732, 1733 and 1734, as he is named in the Harvard records in those years. He died about 1755. He is said to have had seven children, but I have the names of only three of them. Two daughters, Mary and Ruth, married and moved to Sandy Hill, N. Y. One son, Reuben, Jr., born June 4, 1751, married (1) Keziah, daughter of William Kellogg ; she died and he married (2) Anna Kellogg, her cousin. He moved to Vermont, where he had a family of fourteen children, and died at Burlington in 1813. The most of his family appear to have lived at Dorset, Vt., where nine of them were baptized June 29, 1794. Keziah, his first wife, had no children, but the second wife, Anna, was mother of all of them. She died in 1838, at Dorset. The descendants of this Reuben, Jr., are very numerous, and are scattered through the country. They are especially numerous in the extreme west ; being found in considerable numbers in Colorado, Utah, and in all the Pacific States.

Anna, the sixth child of Reuben, Jr., married Gurdon Farwell of Dorset, Vt. Her son, Asa Farwell, graduated A. B. in Middlebury College in 1838 and at Andover in 1842. He became a clergyman, and in 1882 was giving instruction in Doane College, Creete, Neb. He had a son Charles who graduated at Middlebury in 1876.

The eighth child of Reuben, Jr., Reuben, 3d, was married four times and had thirteen children. He moved to Ohio about 1815, where some of his family came in contact with the Mormon organization, which several of them joined, followed its fortunes, and finally settled with that sect in Utah.

Moses Franklin Farnsworth, a son of Reuben, 3d, was born at Edinburgh, Ind., Feb. 5, 1834. In the excitement of the Mormon troubles he united himself with them, and removed to

St. George, Utah. He has interested himself in the history of the family, and has exerted himself to collect materials for it.

Reuben Lafayette, a son of the same Reuben, 3d, but not a Mormon, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession at St. Paul, Minn. He has also interested himself in religious matters, and published a book entitled "The Real Man is a Spirit Only." He married Sylvia Parker and has eight children.

5. PHINEHAS, born Sept. 15, 1707; baptized Sept. 21, 1707; married Ezuba Burt. He lived in that part of Harvard that was set off to Shirley, where he died April 17, 1752. His wife died in 1812, aged 100 years. He had eight children.

6. PRISCILLA, born Sept. 9, 1709; baptized Oct. 9, 1709; married Samuel Randall of Stow, Mass., Nov. 30, 1731.

7. NATHANIEL, born Sept. 1, 1711; married Eunice, daughter of Ephraim and Abigail [Farnsworth] Sawtell, who was born Oct. 7, 1720, and died Aug. 6, 1799. He died March 9, 1784. They had nine children, the youngest of whom, Lucy, was baptized Feb. 22, 1761, and married Deacon Joseph Sawtell, Jr., of Groton.

8. JOHN, born Feb. 8, 1714; died July 25, 1715.

9. HANNAH, born Aug. 10, 1716; married Josiah Butterfield, July 22, 1737.

10. SIMEON, born July 12, 1718; married Martha Hall, May 28, 1744. She died May 7, 1754, aged 34, and he married (2) Lucy Atherton, who survived him and died May 13, 1825, aged 88 years, 7 months. He died at Washington, N. H., March 21, 1805. He lived until March, 1781, in the part of Harvard that was set off to Shirley, and then he moved with his family to Washington, N. H., where some of his sons had previously gone, and where he spent the rest of his life as a farmer.

Simeon had a son Simeon, Jr., born Sept. —, 1746, who was an early adventurer into the northern part of New Hampshire, and who, in 1776, was a petitioner to the New Hampshire Legislature for the incorporation of the territory then known as Camden. The result was that the Legislature incorporated the town and gave it the name of Washington. This was, perhaps, the earliest town to be given the name of the "father of his country," who was then at the dawn of his glorious career as the leader of the armies of the recently revolted colonies. This son of

Simeon, bearing his name, has been frequently confounded with the father, who probably did not move to Washington until several years after his son had prepared the way for him. He had seventeen children, six by his first and eleven by his second wife, all but one of whom were probably born in Harvard. The youngest of them was doubtless born at Washington.

Stephen Farnsworth, a son of Simeon, Jr., and grandson of the first Simeon, who emigrated to and settled at Washington, N. H., had a family that deserves mention. His youngest son, Orrin, born May 16, 1831, was at the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion engaged in business in a hotel at New Orleans. He at once gave up his situation and returned to his native place in Vermont, where he enlisted in the Third Vermont Regiment of Infantry. He served in it until the battle of Fredericksburg, May 4, 1863, when he was wounded and died of his wounds four days after, May 8, 1863.

Orrin Edward Farnsworth, a grandson of Stephen, served as a volunteer in the War of the Rebellion, and now resides, with his six children, at Hardman, Oregon.

Calvin Farnsworth, another son of Stephen, had four sons, three of whom volunteered for service during the Rebellion. The eldest, Russell Underwood, enlisted in the Third Vermont Volunteers, but his health failed and he was necessarily discharged. The second, Silas Quimby, enlisted in the same regiment, served until Grant began his march on Richmond, and was killed in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864. The third of his sons, Robert William Carr, born at Haverhill, N. H., Feb. 20, 1844, enlisted in the Tenth Vermont Volunteers, and eventually was appointed captain of a company of the United States colored troops. He was with his regiment in a battle near Pascagoula, S. C., in which he was very severely wounded in his head and hip, and was, March, 1865, discharged on account of these disabilities. He thereupon engaged in study, preparatory to the ministry. In 1871-2 he was teacher of Latin in the Fort Edward Collegiate Institute, N. Y. He afterwards studied theology at Boston University, and was ordained as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the New England Southern Conference in 1874. In that year and the next he was stationed at the North Church in Fall River. In 1876-7 he was stationed at the Fourth Street Church in New Bed-

ford. In 1879-80 he served at the church in Danielsonville, Conn. In the following year it became necessary to seek a milder climate and he was transferred to Southern California, where he filled many important appointments in his church, besides holding the office of presiding elder. In 1884 he was delegate to the General Conference from the Southern California Conference, and was elected at the head of the delegation to be sent to the next year's General Conference. In the meantime he was appointed dean of the school of theology in the University of Southern California, which position he held at the time of his death, which took place Jan. 3, 1888, at Los Angeles, in the forty-fourth year of his age. He was a man of great natural ability that had been well developed by careful study. Had he lived the ordinary term of life, he might reasonably have attained an exalted position and reputation in his denomination. But his health was permanently injured by his services and the wounds he received in the war, which eventually led to his premature demise.

Charles H. Farnsworth, the only other son of Calvin, born Jan. 19, 1846, studied theology and became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is now serving in that capacity.

Calvin's only remaining child, Ellen J., born April 7, 1854, married Sept. 25, 1872, Rev. O. D. Clapp, of Northfield, Vt., a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This family is remarkable both for its services to the country in war and to the church in peace.

Jeremy Hoadley Farnsworth, born Oct. 22, 1822, a great-grandson of the same Simeon who settled at Washington, N. H., is a clergyman of the Universalist Church, and in that capacity has served that denomination very efficiently at several places. He is now settled at Westfield, Mass. He has a son, Frederick Tudor, born July 25, 1852, who graduated at Tufts College in 1873, after which he passed a year in Europe in completing his studies preparatory to teaching, to which he has devoted himself. He has been the principal of the Bristol Academy at Taunton, Mass., and he has recently been chosen principal of the High School of Brookline, Mass., which position he now holds.

Elias D., son of Samuel and Nancy [Caswell] Farnsworth, another great-grandson of Simeon, Jr., lived for some time at

New Orleans, where, April 21, 1842, he married Elizabeth Dunn, and subsequently removed to San Francisco, Cal., where he carries on business as a general insurance agent, with his son Edward Pearl. He has had six children.

Simeon Dow Farnsworth, a great-grandson of Simeon, was born at Walden, Vt., April 30, 1828, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1854; was a teacher, editor, clerk of one branch of the New Hampshire Legislature in 1857 and 1858, was a paymaster in the army during the rebellion, and later a member of the New Hampshire Legislature. He was a man of ability, and died at Prairie du Chien, March 6, 1868.

Isaac Danforth Farnsworth, a grandson of Simeon, born April 22, 1810, at Washington, N. H., was a very successful merchant at Boston, where he went in early life. His great abilities were very soon observed, and he found his natural and proper place in the management of the large commercial interests that were committed to his care. He was interested in the East India trade, was a long time treasurer of the Boston Wharf Corporation, and was a large stockholder in many manufacturing companies. He acquired a fortune which he used in a very liberal but not ostentatious manner. He was never married, and at his death he gave large sums for useful charities. In 1873 he gave a fund to the Massachusetts Agricultural College to provide medals for excellence in elocution, that are known as the "Farnsworth medals." By his will he left \$100,000 to build and maintain an art school in the Wellesley College, that is known as the "Farnsworth Art School." The building has been erected and it will be a permanent memorial to his taste and liberality. This devise is said to be the largest that has been given in New England for instruction in art and is certain to prove of great utility. The following communication to the *Boston Journal*, written soon after his death, is so just and so accurately descriptive of his character that it is inserted here as it was written by an intimate friend:

ISAAC D. FARNSWORTH.

To the Editor of the Boston Journal:

The man whose name is at the head of this communication died at the Hotel Windsor, in New York, where he was stopping on his way to Florida in search of milder skies to build up and recuperate, if possible, his physical strength,

which for several years had been enfeebled by causes incident to his advancing years. His death deserves more than a mere passing notice. The writer of this article is ignorant of his birthplace or his exact age, nor has he taken the trouble to ascertain these facts, but for more than forty years he has known him intimately and well, and his familiar face and figure are well known to hundreds and thousands in Boston, where he has resided for more than half a century.

Mr. Farnsworth was eminently an honest man, a just man, a good man, a kind-hearted man, a benevolent man. I do not remember that he ever filled any office in the city or the State, but this I do know, that his record as made up will show not a blemish upon his character. He was brave, honest, upright. But, in addition to all this, he was one of the most benevolent men in our community. Modest, retiring, unostentatious, few knew of his good deeds beyond those who were the recipients of his charities.

Possessed of an ample fortune, he delighted to make others happy by bestowing it generously. The calls that were made upon his bounties were many, and I might say daily, but they never fretted or annoyed him, and rarely if ever was a needy applicant turned away or a worthy charity refused his aid. His name did not often appear in print among other donors, but many of our noblest charities will miss his generous annual contributions and many a poor man and woman will long cherish the name and memory of this good man.

His religion was of that practical kind inculcated by the Saviour, to do all in his power to relieve human suffering, and he has heard the command from his Blessed Master, "Come up higher." P.

A building has been erected for the art school at Wellesley that is not only admirably adapted to its purpose, but which is creditable to the architecture of New England, and especially to the college. It was completed and dedicated to the object for which it was designed, Oct. 23, 1889, at which time an oration worthy of the occasion was delivered by Martin Brimmer, and many admirable works of art, provided by the funds given by Mr. Farnsworth and by others stimulated by his example, were then shown. They will silently but eloquently teach the refinements of art, through the pupils of the Wellesley College, to the people of the country for many generations.

Simeon [the elder] had a great-grandson Joseph S., born May 28, 1822, who lives at Windsor, Vt. He has been greatly interested in the preparation of these memoirs, and to him the author is indebted for the collection of material and invaluable information. He married Judith M. Stevens, and has three children.

11. SUSANNA, born April 28, 1720; married Ebenezer Houghton of Harvard, Jan. 9, 1752.

12. ELIAS, born May 30, 1723.

13. JOHN, born April 25, 1725 ; married Sarah, daughter of Ebenezer Davis, May 14, 1746, and died Feb. 27, 1757. He had five daughters, four of whom died young, and one son, John, born in 1753, at Harvard, and baptized May 13, 1753, who married Hannah White. He moved and joined his cousins, the sons of Simeon, at Washington, N. H., where he was living, as appears by the town records, in 1786. He afterwards moved to Claremont, N. H., where he was chosen a deacon of the church, and about the year 1800 he moved to Westmoreland, N. H., where he died March 23, 1834, aged 81 years. He had a family of eleven children, whose descendants are numerous. Two of Deacon John's grandsons, John and Loring, are in business at Fort Scott, Kan.

14. SILAS, born Nov. 22, 1727, married (1) Elizabeth ——. She died, and he married (2) Lydia Potts, Jan. 15, 1760. He moved to New Hampshire, and had six children, two of whom, Silas and Paul, served in New Hampshire regiments in the Revolutionary War.

15. BETTY, born Oct. 13, 1729.

The descendants of Jonathan Farnsworth are still numerous in Harvard and the towns adjacent, but they early spread into New Hampshire and Vermont, and they are now to be found in nearly every State in the Union from Maine in the East to the States bordering on the Pacific Ocean in the West.

JOSEPH FARNSWORTH.

Matthias Farnsworth had probably a son Joseph, his eleventh and youngest child, as there is an entry in the town records as follows : " Joseph sonne of Matthias Farnworth Dyed Febr. 20, 87." If this was a son of Matthias, senior, as has been commonly supposed, he must have been born after the death of his first son, Joseph, which occurred Oct. 31, 1674. But it is possible that he may have been a son of Matthias, Jr.

FARNSWORTH INDEX.

[In the following index are included only those bearing the name of Farnsworth who are mentioned in the preceding pages. In the case of females who have acquired the name by marriage, the original family name is given and inclosed in parenthesis.]

A aron.....	77	Benjamin Stow.....	49
Abel	47	Betsy (Fitch).....	51
Abel, s.* Ezra, Jr.....	55	Betsy (Sheple).....	55
Abel, s. Jonathan, Jr.....	107	Betty.....	114
Abigail	96	C alvin	79
Abigail (Pierce).....	55	Calvin E.....	16
Abigail (Shed)	45	Calvin, Rev.....	37
Abigail (Stow).....	48	Calvin, s. Stephen.....	110
Addison.....	106	Carrie Isabel (Langdon).....	51
Amos, s. Benjamin.....	59	Cephas.....	80
Amos, "Major"	63	Chandler	37
Amos, Dr.....	71	Charles H.....	111
Amos Henry.....	72	Charles Henry.....	52
Andrew	15	Charles Lewis.....	38
Andrew A.	15	Charles, s. Ralph.....	75
Andrew Jackson.....	50	Charles, s. William.....	37
Anna (Green).....	49	Charlotte (Carter).....	80
Anna (Kellogg)	108	Charlotte F. (Pinkham).....	63
Anna (Wassen).....	88	Claude Joseph.....	70
Annie (Wilson).....	40	Claudius Buchanan	69
Asa.....	59	Cordelia C. (Frye).....	52
Asabel	39	D aniel.....	16
Asenath (Waters).....	59	Daniel D. T.....	17
B enjamin.....	46, 48	Daniel M.....	16
Benjamin, Jr.....	48	Daniel, s. John.....	45
Benjamin, s. Amos	62	David.....	87
Benjamin Brown.....	80	Davilla.....	15
Benjamin Franklin.....	52	Deborah (Beaman).....	108
Benjamin, s. Jonas.....	62, 67		

* Son of Ezra.

Deborah (Rogers).....	36
Dorcas (Whittemore).....	62
Drummond.....	80

E benezer, s. Matthias, Jr.....	35
Ebenezer.....	38
Ebenezer, Jr.....	38
Ebenezer, s. Benjamin.....	48
Ebenezer, s. Ebenezer.....	40
Ebenezer, s. Harbour.....	38
Ebenezer, s. Josiah.....	38
Edward Harding.....	51
Edward Miller.....	63
Edward Miller, Jr.....	63
Edward Pearl.....	112
Edmund.....	38
Edwin R.....	107
Elias, s. Jonathan.....	113
Elias D.....	111
Eliza F. (Valentine).....	49
Eliza Rebecca (Dunham).....	59
Elizabeth.....	73
Elizabeth A. (Potter).....	52
Elizabeth (Dunn).....	112
Elizabeth (Lakin).....	55
Elizabeth Loring (Young).....	77
Elizabeth (Parker).....	77
Elizabeth (Rutherford).....	54
Elizabeth (Tuttle).....	40
Elizabeth (Whitney).....	35
Elon, Chancellor.....	98, 103
Elon John, Gen.....	91, 96
Ephraim.....	108
Esther Crafts (Morse).....	63
Eunice (Billings).....	75
Eunice (Brown).....	80
Eunice (Hastings).....	96
Eunice (Sawtell).....	109
Ezra, s. Benjamin.....	55
Ezra, Jr.....	55
Ezra, 3d.....	55
Ezra, s. Abel.....	55, 57
Ezra, s. Ezra.....	57
Ezuba (Burt).....	109

F rank B.....	59
Frank Hickey.....	38

Franklin.....	16
Frederick Eugene.....	38
Frederick Tudor.....	111

G eorge Bourne.....	72
George Shattuck.....	52

H annah (Aldis).....	44
Hannah (Barron).....	77
Hannah (Blake).....	99
Hannah (Farwell).....	106
Hannah (Hastings).....	87
Hannah (White).....	114
Harbour.....	38
Harriet Peck (Lester).....	76
Harriet W. (Batcheller).....	107
Havilah.....	97
Henry Fitch.....	53
Henry Joseph, Gen.....	59
Henry S.....	39
Hepzibah (Chandler).....	36

I saac, s. Benjamin.....	49
Isaac, s. Daniel.....	16
Isaac, s. Isaac.....	49
Isaac, s. Jonas.....	79
Isaac Danforth.....	112
Isaac P.....	16
Isaac Parker.....	58

J acob.....	106
James, Capt.....	40
James Delap, Rev.....	62
James Jackson.....	16
James Patten.....	91
James S.....	16
Jane (Delap).....	61
Jay Palmer.....	40
Jeremiah.....	45
Jeremy Hoadley.....	111
Joanna B. (Gosman).....	36
John, s. Isaac.....	50
John, s. John.....	50
John, s. John.....	45
John, s. Jonathan.....	114
John, Jr.....	114

John, s. Matthias.....	44
John, s. Samuel.....	88
John, s. Thomas.....	16
John Augustus.....	50
John Franklin, Gen.....	88, 91
John Prescott.....	70
John Prescott, Jr.....	70
John S.....	16
John Wilson.....	41
Jonas, s. Amos.....	61
Jonas, s. Benjamin.....	78
Jonas, s. Jonas.....	79
Jonas, s. Peter.....	80
Jonathan, s. Matthias.....	105
Jonathan, Jr.....	106
Jonathan, 3d.....	106
Jonathan, s. Thomas.....	41
Jonathan Brewer.....	103
Jonathan Gosman, Gen.....	36, 37
Joseph, Gen.....	58
Joseph, s. Ebenezer.....	48
Joseph, s. John.....	45
Joseph, s. Gen. Joseph.....	59
Joseph, s. Matthias.....	81
Joseph, s. Matthias.....	114
Joseph of Dorchester.....	13, 15
Joseph, Jr.....	15
Joseph D.....	15
Joseph Parker.....	107
Joseph S.....	113
Joshua.....	103
Josiah.....	38
Judith M. (Stevens).....	113
Julia A. (Whittemore).....	80
Julia Ann (Cushing).....	52
Julia P. (Cushman).....	72
 K	
Keziah (Kellogg).....	108
 L	
Laura (Abell).....	59
Lavinia (Blanchard).....	106
Leander Lewis.....	38
Leonard S. S.....	16
Levi.....	79
Levi, s. Ebenezer.....	39
Levi, g. s. Jonathan, Jr.....	107
Loring.....	140

Lucy.....	48
Lucy (Atherton).....	109
Lucy (Hale) ...	38
Lucy Holmes (Burgess).....	58
Luke.....	69
Lydia (Longley).....	59
Lydia (Moors).....	49
Lydia (Potts).....	114

M argaret Cochrane (Barbour) ..	70
Margaret (Loach).....	50
Margaret (Marshall).....	80
Maria C. (Ripley).....	52
Marianna (McIntire).....	69
Marion S. (True).....	73
Marshall Look.....	36
Martha.....	48
Martha (Barth).....	79
Martha (Hall).....	109
Mary A. (Clark).....	88
Mary B. (Hollis).....	51
Mary Bourne (Webber).....	71
Mary (Burt).....	106
Mary (Farr).....	20
Mary (Green).....	38
Mary (Holden).	108
Mary Jane (Osgood).....	50
Mary K. (Taylor).....	55
Mary (Pierce).	38
Mary (Prescott).....	46
Mary Stevens (Finney).....	59
Mary (Whitcomb-Willard).....	81
Matthias.....	19-32
Matthias, Jr.....	34
Matthias, 3d.....	41
Matthias, s. Ebenezer... ..	35
Meroc (Sylvester).....	80
Moses.....	40
Moses Franklin.....	108
Moses W.....	16

N ancy A. (Jacobs).....	41
Nancy (Baker).....	50
Nancy (Caswell).....	111
Nancy (Mussey).....	52
Nathan.....	45
Nathaniel.....	16

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-------|
| Nathaniel s. Jonathan..... | 109 | Samuel, s. Joseph of Dorchester. | 14 |
| O live (Hayden)..... | 40 | Sarah (Bennett)..... | 77 |
| Olive (Kingsbury)..... | 41 | Sarah (Davis)..... | 114 |
| Oliver, s. Benjamin..... | 48 | Sarah (Delap)..... | 79 |
| Oliver, s. Stephen..... | 97 | Sarah (Gilson)..... | 45 |
| Oliver, Jr..... | 97 | Sarah (Hartwell)..... | 69 |
| Orrin..... | 110 | Sarah Melville (Parker)..... | 55 |
| Orrin Edward..... | 110 | Sarah (Nichols)..... | 48 |
| P arker Elisha..... | 107 | Sarah (Nutting)..... | 34 |
| Paul..... | 114 | Sarah (Page)..... | 49 |
| Peter..... | 79 | Sarah (Tarbell)..... | 48 |
| Philo Judson..... | 39 | Sarah (Walker)..... | 38 |
| Phinehas..... | 109 | Seth..... | 40 |
| Polly (Goodell)..... | 55 | Silas, s. Jonathan..... | 114 |
| R alph..... | 74 | Silas, Jr..... | 114 |
| Rebecca..... | 42 | Silas Quimby..... | 110 |
| Rebecca (Gibson)..... | 45 | Simeon, s. Jonathan..... | 109 |
| Rebecca Miller Thayer (Fogg)..... | 63 | Simeon, Jr..... | 109 |
| Rebecca (Pratt)..... | 48 | Simeon Don..... | 112 |
| Rebecca (Wright)..... | 50 | Solomon..... | 48 |
| Reuben, s. Jonathan..... | 108 | Stephen..... | 96 |
| Reuben, Jr..... | 108 | Stephen, s. Simeon, Jr..... | 110 |
| Reuben, 3d..... | 108 | Sylvia (Parker)..... | 109 |
| Reuben Lafayette..... | 109 | T hankful (Ward)..... | 78 |
| Robert..... | 54 | Thomas..... | 40 |
| Robert William Carr..... | 110 | Thomas G..... | 16 |
| Rosaline (Currier)..... | 50 | Thomas Green..... | 51 |
| Rufus..... | 106 | Thomas Jefferson..... | 16 |
| Russell Underwood..... | 110 | Thomas Swift..... | 37 |
| Ruth..... | 105 | Thomas of Bordentown..... | 16-18 |
| Ruth (Hobart)..... | 35 | Thomas of Staten Island..... | 16 |
| Ruth (Shattuck)..... | 105 | W alter..... | 77 |
| S ally (Patten)..... | 88 | William, s. Ebenezer..... | 35 |
| Samuel..... | 86 | William, Jr..... | 36 |
| Samuel, Jr..... | 86 | William, 3d..... | 36 |
| Samuel, Dr..... | 51 | William, s. Ezra..... | 58 |
| Samuel, Jr., Dr..... | 51 | William, s. Isaac..... | 54 |
| Samuel, s. David..... | 88 | William A..... | 54 |
| Samuel, g. s. Jonathan..... | 107 | William D..... | 16 |
| | | William H..... | 79 |
| | | Wilson Amos, Rev..... | 40 |

GENERAL INDEX.

[In the following index the letter F in parenthesis following the name of a woman denotes that she was born Farnsworth.]

Adams, Sarah (F).....	36
Aldis, John.....	44
Andrews, George P.....	53
Andrews, Solomon.....	53
Andrews, Sybil Anna (F).....	53

Baker, Dr. Isaac.....	77
Baker, Jonathan.....	77
Baker, Mary (F).....	77
Baker, Osman, Jr.....	77
Barbour, William.....	70
Billings, Coddington... ..	75
Blood, Abigail (F).....	38
Blood, David	38
Bordentown, N. J., settled by Thomas Farnsworth.....	16
Bowers, Deborah (F).....	80
Bowers, Samuel, Jr... ..	80
Bowers' Tavern at Groton.....	80
Brewer, John Lewis... ..	57
Brewer, Mary Rice (F).....	57
Bunker Hill, Col. Prescott and General Putnam at.....	66
Bunker Hill, Major Amos Farns- worth's account of.....	65
Butterfield, Hannah (F).....	109
Butterfield, Josiah.	109

Chancery Court of Michigan, Elon Farnsworth first Chan- cellor of.....	99
--	----

Charlestown, N. H., settlement by Samuel, David and Stephen Farnsworth	86
Clapp, Ellen J. (F).....	111
Clapp, Rev. O. D.	111
Collamer, Jacob.....	41

Davis, Ebenezer.....	114
Delap, James.....	61

Farnet (Farnsworth), Matthias Claude	42
Farnet, Catherine C. Charpentier	42
Farnsworth Art School, Wellesley	112
Farnsworth, Canadian variations of the name of.....	42
Farnsworth, Chancellor Elon, tribute to.....	102
Farnsworth, Gen. Elon John, at Gettysburg	92-96
Farnsworth Hall at Bridgton (Me.) Academy.....	52
Farnsworth Hall at Vermont Academy.....	50
Farnsworth, Origin of the name of	9-12
Farnsworth, Revolutionary Com- mission of Lieut. Amos.....	68
Farnsworth, Settlement in Charlestown, N. H.....	38
Farnsworth, Settlement in Nova Scotia.....	61

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Farnsworth, Will of Mary..... | 31 | Holden, Abigail (Stone) | 85 |
| Farnsworth, Will of Matthias... | 29 | Holden, Jane (F)..... | 62 |
| Farnworth in Dean, England... | 10 | Holden, Justinian..... | 28 |
| Farnworth in Prescott, England. | 12 | Holden, Nathaniel..... | 85 |
| Farr, George..... | 20 | Holden, Samuel..... | 62 |
| Farr, Mary..... | 20 | Hollis, Jesse..... | 51 |
| Farr, Sarah (Stone)..... | 85 | Houghton, Ebenezer..... | 113 |
| Farr, Stephen..... | 85 | Houghton, Susanna (F) | 113 |
| Farwell, Anna (F)..... | 108 | Hutchins, Abigail (F)..... | 104 |
| Farwell, Asa..... | 108 | Hutchins, Benjamin..... | 104 |
| Farwell, Capt. Henry..... | 77 | Hutchins, Elizabeth..... | 104 |
| Farwell, Charles..... | 108 | Hutchins, John..... | 104 |
| Farwell, Gurdon | 108 | Hutchins, Joshua..... | 104 |
| Farwell, Lydia (Tarbell)..... | 77 | Hutchins, Nicholas..... | 20, 104 |
| Finney, Erastus..... | 59 | | |
| Fitch, Zachariah..... | 51 | Impartial Herald, The; estab- | |
| Fogg, Daniel | 63 | lished at Suffield, Conn., 1797, | |
| Fowle, Carrie Palmer (F)..... | 40 | by H. & O. Farnsworth..... | 97 |
| Fowle, Rev. James L..... | 41 | | |
|
 | | | |
| Garrison, William Lloyd; letter | | Jacques, Addison B. | 51 |
| to Elizabeth Farnsworth..... | 73 | Jacques, Emily Rebecca (F).... | 51 |
| Gettysburg, Gen. Elon John | | Johnson, Mrs. James..... | 39 |
| Farnsworth's charge and death | | | |
| at..... | 92-96 | Kellogg, William | 108 |
| Gibson, Thomas | 45 | Kilbourn, Alpheus..... | 41 |
| Goff, Thomas... | 35, 60 | Kilbourn, Hallett..... | 41 |
| Green, John..... | 38 | Kilbourn, Josiah Burrage..... | 72 |
| Groton, Settlement of | 19 | Kilbourn, Mary Elizabeth (F)... | 72 |
| Groton, Destroyed by Indians... | 26 | Kilbourn, Philana (F)..... | 41 |
| Groton, Matthias Farnsworth's | | Knox, Gen. Henry..... | 82 |
| land at..... | 24 | | |
| Guilford, Eliza Wheeler (F).... | 98 | Lakin, Benjamin..... | 55 |
| Guilford, Nathan..... | 98 | Lakin, Hannah..... | 33 |
| | | Lakin, Isaac..... | 33 |
| Hall, Mary Elizabeth (F)..... | 72 | Lakin, John | 33 |
| Hall, Prescott Farnsworth..... | 72 | Lakin, William..... | 33 |
| Hall, Samuel..... | 72 | Lawrence, Asa. | 48 |
| Harrison, Carolyn Frances (F).. | 101 | Lawrence, Asa Farnsworth..... | 48 |
| Harrison, Jared Francis..... | 101 | Lawrence, Lydia (F) | 48 |
| Hartwell, Ebenezer..... | 45 | Lawrence, Nathaniel..... | 30 |
| Hartwell, Oliver..... | 69 | Locke, Hannah (F)..... | 77 |
| Hartwell, Rachel (F)..... | 45 | Locke, James, Jr..... | 77 |
| Hartwell, Samuel | 45 | Loker, John..... | 47 |
| Hartwell, Sarah (F)..... | 45 | Long, John..... | 13 |
| Hobart, Gershom..... | 35 | Long, Thomas..... | 13 |

Longley, James 35
 Longley, Joanna (Goffe)..... 35, 60
 Longley, John..... 47, 59
 Longley, William..... 35

McDonald, Joseph E..... 59
 McDonald, Josephine (F)..... 59
 McIntire, Joseph..... 69
 Mansfield, Elizabeth (F)..... 13
 Mansfield, John..... 13
 Moors, Abraham..... 44
 Moors, Benjamin..... 44
 Moors, Timothy..... 49
 Morse, John C..... 63

Nutting, John... .. 34

Otis, Amos..... 62
 Otis, Amos, Jr..... 62
 Otis, Nancy (F)..... 62
 Otis, Sally (F)..... 62

Page, Jonathan..... 86
 Page, Mary Crew (F)..... 86
 Page, Samuel..... 49
 Parker, Isaac..... 55
 Parker, James..... 44, 85
 Parker, Josiah..... 44
 Patten, Col. James..... 88
 Peck, Hannah (F)..... 13
 Peck, Joseph..... 13
 Perley, Betsey (F)..... 53
 Perley, Thomas..... 53
 Perley, Thomas Flint..... 53
 Pierce, Ephraim..... 38, 55
 Pinkham, Vincent..... 63
 Potter, William..... 52
 Prescott, Col. William..... 47
 Prescott, Ebenezer..... 45
 Prescott, Hannah (F)..... 45
 Prescott, John..... 46
 Prescott, John 25
 Prescott, Jonas.... 25, 28, 30, 44, 46
 Puffer, Matthias..... 14
 Puffer, Rachel (F)..... 14

Puffer, Ruth (F)..... 14
 Puffer, William..... 14

Ramezay, Claude de..... 42
 Randall, Priscilla (F)..... 109
 Randall, Samuel..... 109
 Reed, Henry L..... 41
 Reed, Hopkins A..... 41
 Reed, Mary Jane (F)..... 41
 Rhode Island Republican, published by H. & O. Farnsworth, 1799..... 97
 Richards, Edmund..... 78
 Richards, Edward..... 20
 Richards, Eunice (Locke)..... 77
 Richards, Eunice ; her story of the Revolution..... 78
 Richardson, Harriet Mussey (F) 52
 Richardson, M. C..... 52
 Ripley, Abraham..... 13
 Ripley, Esther (F)..... 13
 Ripley, John..... 52
 Robinson, Elizabeth..... 33
 Robinson, Elizabeth (F)..... 33
 Robinson, James..... 33
 Ruggles, John..... 14
 Ruggles, Rebecca (F)..... 14
 Rutherford, Rev. Robert..... 54

Sawtell, Abigail (F)..... 45, 109
 Sawtell, Capt. Ephraim..... 45, 109
 Sawtell, Deacon Joseph..... 109
 Sawtell, Lucy (F)..... 109
 Shattuck, Job..... 45, 69
 Shattuck, John..... 105
 Shattuck, Jonathan..... 38
 Shattuck, Keziah (F)..... 38
 Shattuck, Ruth (Whitney)..... 105
 Shattuck, Sarah..... 45
 Shay's Rebellion..... 69
 Shed, Jonathan..... 42
 Sheple, Capt. Jonathan..... 33
 Sheple, Capt. Joseph..... 55
 Sheple, Lydia (Lakin)..... 33
 Stevens, Capt. John..... 78
 Stevens, Martha (F)..... 78

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| Stone, Abijah..... | 41 | Thatcher, Col. Samuel..... | 82 |
| Stone, Benjamin..... | 85 | True, Dr. N. B..... | 73 |
| Stone, Dan, M. C..... | 98 | Tucker, Gilbert Ruggles..... | 88 |
| Stone, Hannah..... | 85 | Tucker, Relief (F)..... | 88 |
| Stone, Hannah (F)..... | 41 | Tucker, Reuben..... | 88 |
| Stone, Isaac..... | 85 | | |
| Stone, James..... | 35 | V alentine, Samuel..... | 49 |
| Stone, John..... | 28, 35, 84 | | |
| Stone, Joseph..... | 85 | W ashington, Life of ; printed | |
| Stone, Lydia..... | 85 | by Oliver Farnsworth, 1800... | 98 |
| Stone, Sarah (F)..... | 84 | Washington, N. H., settled by | |
| Stone, Simon..... | 28, 35, 84 | Simeon Farnsworth..... | 109 |
| Stone, Simon, Jr..... | 85 | Webber, Capt. Seth..... | 71 |
| Stone, Susannah..... | 85 | Wentworth's, Gov. Benning, re- | |
| Stow, Benjamin..... | 48 | fusal to recognize the Farns- | |
| | | worth grant at Charlestown, | |
| T arbell, Col. Abel..... | 48, 88 | N. H..... | 87 |
| Tarbell, Hannah (F)..... | 88 | Wheelock, Deborah..... | 79 |
| Tarbell, John..... | 88 | Wheelock, Joseph..... | 79 |
| Tarbell, Gen. John..... | 48 | Whitcomb, Josiah..... | 86 |
| Tarbell, Jonathan..... | 38 | Wilcock, John..... | 13 |
| Tarbell, Lydia (F)..... | 38, 77 | Willard, Hannah (F)..... | 45 |
| Tarbell, Mary (F)..... | 48 | Willard, Isaac..... | 45 |
| Tarbell, Samuel..... | 77 | Willard, Simon..... | 86 |
| Tarbell, William..... | 48 | Willard, Simon, Jr..... | 86 |
| Thatcher, Abigail..... | 82 | Willcox, Elon Farnsworth..... | 101 |
| Thatcher, Anna..... | 82 | Willcox, Mary Louise (F)..... | 101 |
| Thatcher, Ebenezer..... | 82 | Willcox, Gen. Orlando B..... | 101 |
| Thatcher, Hannah..... | 82 | Wilson, Rev. Edwin P..... | 52 |
| Thatcher, Henry Knox..... | 83 | Wilson, Virginia Harris (F)..... | 52 |
| Thatcher, John..... | 82 | | |
| Thatcher, Lucy (Knox)..... | 82 | Y oung, Alexander..... | 77 |
| Thatcher, Mary (F)..... | 82 | | |
| Thatcher, Samuel..... | 82 | | |



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